

No date fixed for Cyprus conference

ANKARA (AP) — Talks on a Cyprus settlement are continuing, but no date has been fixed for a proposed four-party conference, a Turkish official said Wednesday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungur was commenting on reports from Athens that the conference had been set for Oct. 3. The island has been divided since Turkish troops seized its northern third in 1974 to prevent its union with Greece after a right-wing coup. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state was set up in 1983. It is recognised only by Turkey. After visiting Greece and Turkey in July, U.S. President George Bush announced the two countries and the Turkish and Greek Cypriot leaders had agreed to meet in the United States. Mr. Sungur and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had sent messages last week to Turkish President Mesut Yilmaz and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash urging support for the mediating efforts of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Oscar Camillion and Gustave Feinzel, special representatives of the secretary-general, are engaged in a third round of negotiations with Greek and Turkish Cypriot officials in Nicosia to narrow their differences. Mr. Yilmaz and Greek Premier Constantine Mitsotakis were also meeting in Paris Wednesday to discuss the Cyprus issue.

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King: Breakthrough for peace at hand

Devastating consequences if Arab hopes dashed, Jordan tells Europe

STRASBOURG (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday the world was on the verge of a breakthrough of a settlement of the Palestinian problem, but warned of devastating consequences if the hopes were dashed.

King Hussein said an international peace conference on the Middle East due next month would have the chance to address the root cause of regional instability at a time when great and rapid changes were taking place elsewhere in the world.

But he added: "There are on either side forces of extremism and darkness that will grow in strength if there is no progress... failure would be devastating."

In a speech to the European Parliament, the King said "a violent storm of unpredictable change" would sweep the Arab World if Arabs were left to go on suffering material deprivation as

a result of the Gulf war.

Winds of change that had brought down forces of dictatorship and one-party rule elsewhere in the world would also hit the Arab World as "hatred, desperation and despair," grew among its peoples, he said.

King Hussein, calling new Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories "a threat to peace," also welcomed the Bush administration's efforts to delay U.S. financial aid to Israel.

"It gives the impression the

United States is serious about peace in the Middle East and is determined to be an evenhanded peace broker," King Hussein said at a news conference following the speech.

President George Bush has asked Congress to delay for four months consideration of \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees that must help Israel absorb new Soviet immigrants by building

bomes in the occupied territories.

The housing loan guarantees would let Israel borrow the money from commercial banks with a cost to the U.S. treasury of a percentage of the amount.

Israel has recently settled many immigrants in the occupied territories, whose future status would be at the heart of a peace conference.

The conference is tentatively scheduled to open next month. King Hussein commended the U.S. administration for "genuine and serious" efforts to arrange the conference.

The administration has resisted intense pressure from Israel to seek immediate congressional approval of the loan.

Isael Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday it was "inconceivable" the United States would not offer immediate help and vowed to press on with settlements in the occupied territories.

In his wide-ranging speech to the European Parliament, King

Hussein said Jordan was eager to contribute its "full share" to peace talks.

He called attention to the tide of refugees that has swept Jordan in the wake of the Gulf crisis. He said that 82 per cent of the 230,000 expatriates who have returned from Kuwait and the Gulf have not found work in Jordan.

"We have had to absorb the impact of ever growing humanitarian responsibilities while struggling to achieve for all our people stability, progress and prosperity with what little we received irregularly in material assistance," he said.

King Hussein said Jordan's achievement in setting high standards of development for its people could be threatened unless there was action to arrest economic decline caused by successive regional crises.

Jordan had had to bear the burden during every phase of

Palestinian suffering, and tens of thousands of Iraqis were also in the country seeking asylum for the "every growing human tragedy," afflicting the Iraqi people.

As an example of Jordan's economic problems, King Hussein said the country's Airbus fleet might be withdrawn shortly because of its current inability to pay arrears on their purchase price.

The loss of this fleet and accompanying financial losses would deal a crippling blow to Royal Jordanian airlines, he said. Airbus is built by a four-nation community consortium.

King Hussein was due to meet privately later Wednesday European Commission President Jacques Delors and Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, but he did not say whether he would be seeking any specific forms of community aid.

Bonn ready to use its clout to help Jordan

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Germany is prepared to use its political influence to counter the financial and economic problems facing Jordan in the wake of the Gulf crisis and enable the Kingdom to contribute positively to Middle East peace process, a German government minister said Wednesday.

"We would be prepared to use foreign political influence to counter financial and economic problems facing Jordan," said Carl Dieter Spranger, Germany's minister for economic cooperation.

"We will try to assert our influence on the United States, the Gulf states and Israel to try to reach a peaceful economic social stability that has so far eluded us," Mr. Spranger told the Jordan Times.

The minister, who held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and senior Jordanian officials over the past two days, expressed hope that the Middle East peace conference scheduled to take place in October would succeed.

"Germany will do all that it can to promote this (the peace process)," he said.

One of the main themes for Mr. Spranger's talks in Amman

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Jordan, PLO end 2 days of talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian and Palestinian officials Wednesday ended two days of talks on coordinating their positions at the U.S.-proposed Middle East peace conference scheduled for next month.

A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official, quoted by the AP, said Wednesday's session of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee "discussed Middle East developments and the ongoing peace efforts." But he did not elaborate.

The PLO official said the committee was chaired by Nabil Shaath, a political aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and briefed the Jordanian government on Palestinians' meetings in London with U.S. and European officials.

He said prominent Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories and Europe held meetings in London last week with these officials to discuss the form of Palestinian participation in the peace process. He gave no details.

The joint committee, formed last month by His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Arafat, consists of almost a dozen officials from both sides.

The committee is primarily involved in coordinating positions between Palestinians and Jordanians on U.S. efforts to convene the peace conference.

The PLO has in the past insisted that it should have its own delegation.

But the United States favours a joint delegation of Jordanian officials and non-PLO Palestinian representatives.

King Hussein has said he was willing to form a delegation of Palestinian and Jordanian officials, providing the PLO accepted that formula.

King Hussein affirmed that Jordan will not speak on behalf of Palestinians and stressed that Palestinians will have to select their representatives to the peace parley.

Yasser Arafat, head of the PLO's information department, meanwhile denied persistent reports that the organisation would transfer its headquarters from Tunis to Amman.

"The question has not been raised with Jordan or with any other Arab party," Mr. Arafat said, as a Executive Committee member, was quoted as saying in an interview in the Tunis weekly Al Nahar.

Jordan and the PLO are trying to reach an understanding on whether our conditions are fulfilled," Mr. Arafat said.

He gave no details of that aspect of his Cairo talks or specify what economic assistance Moscow wants from Egypt, itself suffering economic difficulties despite recent foreign debt relief.

Mr. Primakov, Mr. Gorbatchev's principal Middle East envoy, stressed that his regional swing is unrelated to Moscow's joint peace efforts with the United States. But he took questions on the subject.

He gave an emphatic "yes, of

Bush says no specific loan guarantee pledge to Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush denied Wednesday that the United States had promised Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees to help the Jewish state resettle Soviet emigres.

"In principle, this concept of helping, we want to do it. But I'm not committed to any numbers and never have been," said Mr. Bush, who complained of misleading statements in Israel that "they wanted what we'd committed to."

"If they're going to deal on this question, we ought to be dealing from the facts. And that one was not a fact," he said.

Mr. Bush was responding to a reporter's question about whether he was committed to back the \$10 billion line of credit to Israel if Congress agreed to a delay on the request.

His testy comment was apparently prompted by an Israeli official's statement Tuesday that Israel would reject any loan guarantee to Israel.

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Mr. Bush, in a letter on Tuesday to Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, also promised to compensate Israel for any additional costs caused by the delay he is seeking.

Israel needs the guarantees to borrow the \$10 billion at low interest rates to help absorb an estimated one million Soviet immigrants over the next five years.

Israeli officials say they are worried that if approval of the guarantees is postponed, Washington will use the issue and future American aid as leverage to extract compromises from Israel at the proposed Middle East peace conference scheduled for October.

Israel has agreed conditionally to attend the conference but Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said repeatedly that Israel will not give up the occupied territories.

"A simple delay here in my view and in the view of all of us in the administration is the best way to set the proper tone for these talks to start," Mr. Bush said. "I'm going to fight for it, and I think the American people will back me ... if we take the case to the American people."

Mr. Bush said he was "calling the shots on this question the way I think is best," and not approaching it "in a spirit of confrontation."

"We've taken the lead around the world in facilitating ... Soviet Jews coming to Israel and Ethiopian Jews as well," he said.

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Envoy: Moscow active in peace conference, no prior Israeli ties

CAIRO (AP) — Mikhail Gorbatchev's envoy said Wednesday the Soviet Union will play an active role in a Middle East peace conference despite recent political upheavals in the country.

But Yevgeny Primakov said the Soviets will not be pressured into resuming diplomatic relations with Israel before the conference, tentatively set for next month.

He spoke to reporters after delivering a message to President Hosni Mubarak from Soviet President Gorbatchev. Mr. Primakov said Mr. Mubarak is expected to visit the Soviet Union shortly.

"But I am not here to discuss the peace conference," he added, speaking in English. "I don't want anyone to understand that we are preparing for the conference (during this tour). ... I am here to discuss bilateral and economic relations with Egypt."

He gave no details of that aspect of his Cairo talks or specify what economic assistance Moscow wants from Egypt, itself suffering economic difficulties despite recent foreign debt relief.

Mr. Primakov was asked about reports that the Soviet Union would restore diplomatic relations with Israel next month. Moscow severed relations in

the 1967 war.

"There will be no resumption of Israeli-Soviet relations then," he replied in Russian through an Arabic interpreter. "All of this will be directly related to Israel's participation in the peace conference."

Mr. Gorbatchev and President George Bush proposed the conference for October when they met in Moscow last July.

Asked whether Moscow's role would be an active one, Mr. Primakov replied: "Yes, in our capacity as co-host."

"But I am not here to discuss the peace conference," he added, speaking in English. "I don't want anyone to understand that we are preparing for the conference (during this tour). ... I am here to discuss bilateral and economic relations with Egypt."

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France seeks four-power meeting

PARIS (AP) — President Francois Mitterrand said Wednesday that the four countries with nuclear weapons in Europe should meet soon to work out new security arrangements needed because of instability in the Soviet Union. The French president also predicted that Slovenia, and probably Croatia as well, would become independent of Yugoslavia. Mr. Mitterrand, in a nationally televised news conference, said it was essential that U.S., Soviet, French and British leaders meet soon "to ensure the security of the continent." At the moment, the uncertainty is coming from Moscow. It's up to Moscow to say who's in authority, where the nuclear weapons are now and where they will go." Aside from several briefings during the Gulf war, it was Mr. Mitterrand's first full-scale news conference since May 1989 and only the sixth since he took office in 1981. It followed a barrage of criticism from conservatives, who accused him of a weak initial response to the attempted Soviet coup and said his Socialist Party was out of step with contemporary Europe. A poll by L'Express magazine last week reported that 61 per cent of 1,000 adults surveyed described Mr. Mitterrand as "worn out."

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Egypt decides to freeze visa rule for Jordanians

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt has decided to freeze its decision to impose visa requirements for Jordanians travelling to Egypt and has stressed the importance of conducting consultations among the Arab countries neighbouring Israel prior to the Middle East peace conference scheduled for October.

The announcement was made by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensor following a meeting in Cairo Wednesday with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

The two sides discussed the peace process and the coordination of material cooperation that should materialise among Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to achieve the aims of the conference.

The Egyptian government, upon directives from the president, has decided to freeze its decision of imposing visa requirements for Jordanians travelling to Egypt, said the minister in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The Egyptian decision is

(Continued on page 5)

Arafat reaffirms right to seek U.S. guarantees

From Tareq Masarweh in Tunis

PALESTINE PRESIDENT Yasir Arafat has reaffirmed the Palestinian right to demand American guarantees in advance of the proposed peace conference in October and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) plans to submit such requests for guarantees to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The PLO seeks full coordination among the Arab states neighbouring Israel. Mr. Arafat said adding that he had discussed this question with His Majesty King Hussein in Amman and with Syrian Vice-President Abd al-Hamid Khaddam in Libya.

Asked on whether the Palestine National Council (PNC) would give support to the PLO leadership, Mr. Arafat said be

(Continued on page 5)

Israel frees 51 Arabs to help hostage release

RAS AL NAQOURA (Agencies) — Israel freed 51 Lebanese prisoners Wednesday after getting confirmation that a missing Israeli soldier was dead. It said it hoped the move would speed the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

A military communiqué said Israel acted after receiving "irrefutable evidence" that Rahamim

Rights group says Kuwaiti regime responsible for abuse

WASHINGTON (R) — The government of Kuwait should be held responsible for the murder, torture, detention and deportation of thousands of Palestinians and non-Kuwaitis in the six months since Iraqi forces withdrew, a human rights group said Wednesday.

The group, Middle East Watch, said the emir of Kuwait and the crown prince have virtually invited widespread violence in periodic calls to rid the country of Iraqi "collaborators."

"The pretext for these abuses is a government-inspired quest to root out those who collaborated with the Iraqi occupier and to restructure Kuwaiti society in a fashion that is deemed more reliable politically," the report said.

"Murder, torture, arbitrary detention and deportation have been the tools of this campaign of vengeance," the report said.

Although the Kuwaiti government has attempted to put blame for the violence on forces outside its control, most of the killings were by security forces and irregular armed forces allied with the group reported.

It said it had collected evidence that Kuwaiti forces were responsible for scores of deaths, including 54 unidentified bodies in a mass grave.

The highest levels of Kuwaiti government are complicit in these killings in that they have yet to arrest or prosecute any of those

responsible," the report said.

At least 3,000 people were being held in detention under abhorrent conditions with about one-third held pending deportation. Most of the rest have no charges filed against them. About 300 are being held incommunicado.

More than 1,500 have been expelled, some sent over the border to Iraq where they faced persecution. The report said a typical case was that of a Palestinian who had lived in Kuwait for 32 of his 35 years and worked as an oil-maintenance man but was accused of collaboration.

The Kuwaiti government said Wednesday its prisons were open to international investigators. "Deportations have not stopped ... torture continues. Anybody non-Kuwaiti who is arrested even for non-political reasons is being tortured," said Imad Al Seif, a defense lawyer and a prominent Kuwaiti human rights activist.

The government asserted there was no torture in Kuwait. "I assert that there is no torture going on. Those people who are leaving are going out of their own will and after they take all their dues and rights," Information Minister Badr Al Jassim Al Yacoub said.

"Our doors are open to any organization that wants to come and verify that these allegations are not true ... this is part of a campaign against Kuwait," he told Reuters.

Kuwaiti human rights activists spoke of daily deportation of Palestinians and other non-Kuwaitis.

Mr. Seif said torture victims were Palestinians and other Arabs. He said the number of political arrests had recently decreased, but deportations continued on a daily basis.

Kuwait's Palestinian community, which numbered 350,000 before Iraq's invasion, has plummeted to less than 90,000 people.

The emir, angered by Palestine Liberation Organization's support for Iraq, laid off thousands of Palestinians and barred their children from government schools. The move caused an exodus to Jordan.

The Kuwaiti activists said at least 3,000 people were being held in detention. More than 1,000 were awaiting deportation without going on trial.

The authorities told us that about 300 people are ready to stand trial," Mr. Seif said.

Kuwait has set up an appeals court to ensure that people suspected of collaborating with Iraq enjoy greater legal protection when trials resume in September.

The Kuwaiti legal system was widely criticized by Western governments and human rights organizations earlier this year when suspected collaborators were tried in martial law courts without the right of appeal.

Perez de Cuellar urges review of U.N. enforcement measures

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has proposed a review of the use of enforcement measures under the U.N. Charter and indicated some reservations about the way they were applied in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

In a wide-ranging annual report on the work of the United Nations, he said the Security Council acted swiftly and systematically and force was used only when all warnings to Baghdad went unheeded.

But he added that enforcement action was not carried out exactly in the form foreseen under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, which provides for measures by the United Nations itself. Instead, the Security Council authorized the use of force on a national and coalition basis.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who is now in the final months of his second five-year term of office, continued: "In the circumstances and given the costs imposed and capabilities demanded by modern warfare, the arrangement seemed unavoidable."

But he said the Gulf experience "suggests the need for a collective reflection on questions relating to the future use of the powers vested in the Security Council under Chapter VII," including an assessment of the mechanisms required for the council to satisfy itself that the rule of proportionality in the employment of armed force is observed and the rules of humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts followed.

Referring particularly to the use of economic sanctions and their effects not only on an offending state but its economic partners, he said careful thought should be given to ensuring that the application of enforcement measures "is not perceived to be over-extended."

Elsewhere in his report Mr. Perez de Cuellar said protection of human rights "has now become one of the keystones in the arch of peace" and countries could no longer carry out massive violations behind the barrier of national sovereignty.

"I am also convinced that it



Javier Perez de Cuellar now involves more a concerted exertion of international influence and pressure through timely appeal, admission, remonstrance or condemnation and, in the last resort, an appropriate United Nations presence, than what was regarded as permissible under traditional international law."

He said: "It is now increasingly felt that the principle of non-interference with the essential domestic jurisdiction of states cannot be regarded as a protective barrier behind which human rights could be massively or systematically violated with impunity."

The case for not impinging on the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of states was, by itself, inadmissibly strong.

"But it would only be weakened if it were to carry the implication that sovereignty, even in this day and age, includes the right of mass slaughter or of launching systematic campaigns of decimation or forced exodus of civilian populations in the name of controlling civil strife or insurrection," the secretary-general added.

Butros Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, is a strong contender to succeed Mr. Perez de Cuellar as U.N. secretary-general. Another name mentioned repeatedly is that of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, but it is not known whether the philanthropist would actually enter the race.

The government's air force has been overhauled ready for new bombing raids and SPLA fighters are massing outside besieged towns, the officials said.

U.N. brokers relief accord in Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations said on Tuesday it had brokered an agreement between Sudan's government and rebels which would open up food relief corridors to reach millions of famine victims in the war-torn south.

Truck convoys and river barges on Nile tributaries would start moving soon. U.N. Under-Secretary General James Jonah told reporters before leaving Nairobi after talks with Khartoum's government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"We have worked out an interim agreement between the government and the SPLA to open up land and water corridors," he said.

Up to \$7 million would be saved by the agreement, which would replace the costly air flights that are currently the only means to reach some war zones in the eight-year conflict.

Many of the estimated eight million people facing starvation in Sudan this year come from the south — where the main cause of hunger is the ravages of war rather than drought.

Mr. Jonah said relief airlifts would cease as soon as land and river routes were opened, but he warned some avenues would remain closed due to military activity.

Most of the south — a vast region of swamp and forest — is in rebel hands, but key towns are still held by the government.

Khartoum-based relief officials report both warring sides are gearing up for major offensives during the current rainy season in the lead-up to Organisation of African Unity (OAU) brokered peace talks planned to start in the next few weeks.

The government's air force has been overhauled ready for new bombing raids and SPLA fighters are massing outside besieged towns, the officials said.

Kurdish rebels step up attacks in Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — While security forces searched for five Westerners abducted in eastern Turkey last month, Kurdish separatists have stepped up their attacks, killing seven soldiers in one raid, officials said Wednesday.

The attack Tuesday was believed carried out by guerrillas who infiltrated from Iran, the officials said. Three soldiers were wounded and three guerrillas killed during the fighting at an army post near the Iranian border.

In another rebel attack near Kurtalan in Siirt province, five soldiers were reportedly injured.

The attacks were believed to have been mounted by the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), fighting since 1984 for an independent Kurdistan in southeastern Turkey.

The killing of 10 soldiers in a similar raid on an outpost near the Iraqi border had triggered a massive strike at PKK hideouts across the border last month.

About 3,000 troops involved in military operations in northern Iraq have since been withdrawn, but Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar Wednesday did not rule out possible "effective measures" in the future.

Asked about the possibility of a similar incursion into Iran where the PKK is suspected of having bases, Mr. Sungar said it had not been discussed with the Iranian officials so far. Iran and Syria had opposed Turkish strikes in northern Iraq.

Meanwhile about 4,000 troops and police commands kept searching for three Americans, a Briton and an Australian abducted at a guerrilla roadblock in Bingöl province on Aug. 30.

The five were identified as Americans Ronald Wyatt, Marvin Wilson, Richard Rives, Briton Gareth Thomas and Australian Allen Roberts. At least three of them had been searching for Noah's Ark in eastern Turkey where the Bible says it came to rest.

A message believed sent by the PKK's "European department" raised hopes for their release Monday, but later the group retracted the promise.

On Monday, the U.S. State Department urged the "immediate and unconditional release" of the abducted Westerners.

The population boom is one of the biggest strains on Iran's efforts to reverse more than a

U.N. says Iran mission stalled over helicopter ban

BAGHDAD (R) — The head of a U.N. team sent to inspect Iraq's ballistic weapons systems said on Wednesday the entire mission was held up by a dispute over the use of helicopters.

Iraq has refused the 17-member team, which arrived in Baghdad a week ago, permission to use two of three German helicopters on loan to the United Nations for trips around the country.

Baghdad said it was able to supply air transport. The United States has warned Iraq that its ban was a direct breach of an Aug. 15 Security Council resolution.

Asked what effect the ban was having, team leader Tom Brock told Reuters: "We came in here to inspect the western zone and we had to do that with the use of United Nations-provided helicopters. The Iraqi authorities did not approve."

"That decision has put the mission on hold and delayed it. Without the transportation that the special commission desire that I use I cannot continue to execute the mission. I'm waiting ..."

Iraq fired missiles at Israel from western sites during the Gulf war in January and February.

On Monday, Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's dangerous weapons, said one team found four Scud missile transporters welded back together.

Iran starts census, says population near 60 million

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, starting a national census Wednesday, said its population was approaching 60 million and more extensive birth control programmes were needed to curb it.

Tehran Radio quoted Abolqasem Jamshidi, head of Iran's statistics centre, as saying projections based on sample studies put the population at 59.5 million — up from 49.8 million found in the last census in 1986.

The five-year plan (to March 1994) envisages a drop in the (annual) population growth rate from 3.2 per cent to 2.9 per cent," Mr. Jamshidi said.

"But statistical studies show that this is impossible to achieve and more fundamental decisions should be taken."

The population boom is one of the biggest strains on Iran's efforts to reverse more than a

decade of economic decline since the 1979 Islamic revolution and the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Mr. Jamshidi said Tehran province, comprising the capital and several outlying cities, was home to 13 million people.

His estimate means that Iran's population has grown an average 3.6 per cent in each of the past five years — higher than any growth rate mentioned by Iranian officials recently.

Officials said last month some 15,000 census workers would offer birth control devices to poor families across the country during the 25-day headcount.

Tehran Radio said supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was among the first to fill out census forms.

Ayatollah Khamenei, who has six children, urged people to answer census questions.

Pollard says U.S. broke plea bargain

WASHINGTON (R) — Lawyers for confessed spy Jonathan Pollard tried to convince an appeals court Tuesday that their client should be allowed to withdraw his guilty plea on grounds the U.S. government broke its side of a plea agreement.

Theodore Olson, arguing on behalf of the former U.S. spy intelligence analyst who is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel, also said Mr. Pollard's guilty plea was coerced because it was improperly linked to a similar plea by his wife.

But assistant U.S. attorney John Fisher denied that the government violated the terms of Mr. Pollard's 1986 plea-bargain agreement.

He said Mr. Pollard waited years before challenging the government's conduct at sentencing, that Mr. Pollard struck the best deal possible and that Mr. Pollard has not contested his guilt.

After more than 90 minutes of arguments, the three-judge panel of the U.S. court of appeals took the case under advisement, with a decision expected in several months.

Judges Ruth Ginsburg, Laurence Silberman and Stephen Williams gave no firm indication of how they would rule.

Mr. Pollard, a 37-year-old American Jew in solitary confinement at a maximum security prison in Marion, Illinois, was not at the hearing. But his parents and his sister, who have been leading the Israel-backed campaign to reduce his sentence, attended.

Mr. Pollard and his wife, Anne, were arrested outside the Israeli embassy on Nov. 21, 1985, after trying to elude pursuing agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

He confessed to passing stacks of top-secret documents to Israel for 18 months in return for \$45,000 in cash. He said he acted because important intelligence was being withheld from Israel.

Mr. Olson said the government violated the terms of the plea deal by casting doubt on the value of Mr. Pollard's cooperation by going beyond the facts and circumstances of the case in portraying Mr. Pollard as a greedy traitor and by effectively seeking a life sentence.

He said Mr. Pollard agreed to the plea bargain in the hope of receiving lenient treatment for himself and his wife, who was convicted as an accomplice and who suffered from a rare disease.

He also questioned why Mr. Pollard had waited so long in making the claims. "Either Mr. Pollard has invented this argument after the fact or he purposefully misled the judge at sentencing (on whether the guilty plea was voluntary.)"

Mr. Pollard's wife was released from prison last year after about 40 months in jail. They have divorced and she has moved to Israel. Mr. Pollard will not be eligible for parole until 1997.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq begins returning Kuwait library tomes

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq Tuesday began returning some 120,000 manuscripts and books that it took from Kuwait's national library during the Gulf war, a U.N. official announced. The transfer of the volumes is taking place at the town of Arar, on the Saudi side of the Saudi-Arabian-Iraqi border, and will continue under U.N. supervision for about two weeks, said U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard. Iraq will also begin turning over property taken from the Kuwaiti News Agency, a transfer that will also be finished in two weeks, he said. Under the terms of the April 3 ceasefire resolution of the Security Council, the goods are being returned, with U.N. officials assisting Kuwait and Iraq in making arrangements. On about Sept. 14, Mr. Eckhard said, Iraq will begin returning the antiquities it took from the Kuwaiti national museum, which had acquired a fabulous collection of Islamic art by making purchases worldwide with petrodollars. The transfer of the antiquities will take about three weeks. From Aug. 5-15, Iraq returned 3,216 gold bars. Each bar weighed 12.5 kilograms, and the whole amount was worth \$600-570 million. Last week Baghdad completed the return of Kuwaiti bank notes and coins, Kuwaiti aircraft engines and spare parts taken by Iraq are still at Saddam International Airport in Baghdad, but will be returned when the library and museum pieces have been processed. Missing planes have already been returned. Richard Foran, a U.N. under-secretary-general, has been supervising the transfers and helping the Iraqis and Kuwaitis make arrangements.

Firebombs tossed at cars, bank in Turkey

KOCAELI, Turkey (AP) — Unknown assailants Tuesday tossed firebombs into two official vehicles and one local bank, the semi-official Anatolian news agency reported. No one was hurt in any of the incidents. It said the attacks occurred about 9:30 p.m. (1930 GMT) in the city centre when the firebombs were hurled at an official van and a car, parked respectively in front of the general post office and a state insurance organization. Both vehicles were completely burned. Around the same time, in the province's Kozel district, a firebomb was hurled at a local bank, causing some damage. The police said a young girl had been caught after hurling the bomb against the bank, and they were searching for another accomplice, her identity was not disclosed. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the car blasts.

Halfway point reached in fixing oil fires

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — The halfway point was reached Tuesday in repairing Kuwait's devastated oil fields when a seven-man Canadian crew capped the 375th oil well, an oil company spokesman said. A news release from Kuwait Oil Company spokesman Michael Kidder said a firefighting team from Safety Boss, a Canadian firm, flooded the blazing Burgan field wellhead — officially designated as BG41 — with torrents of water. Crews then lowered a killing spoon, or valve mechanism, onto the wellhead and bolted it in place, and step by step, the oil was cut off and the pipe sealed. Kuwait oil marshalled nearly 9,000 workers from 32 countries to repair its oil fields. Of the emirate's 935 wells, 749 were damaged, including more than 650 set ablaze or left gushing oil in the final weeks of the Gulf war.

John McCarthy meets hostage's wife

LONDON (AP) — Freed British hostage John McCarthy met briefly Tuesday with the wife of Jackie Mann, a 72-year-old Briton still missing in Lebanon. Mr. McCarthy, 34, flew to Heathrow airport from France, where he has been resting after his release Aug. 8. After a 90-minute meeting with Sunnie Mann in the airport VIP lounge, he flew back to France. Mrs. Mann said

Officials express gratitude for German efforts to modernise the Kingdom's economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian officials Wednesday voiced their appreciation and gratitude to Germany for its continued financial, economic, and technical aid to the Kingdom and expressed hope that Germany will now turn its attention towards helping the country honour its financial obligations and foreign debts.

German assistance to Jordan over the past three decades was instrumental in achieving development in almost all fields and in implementing socio-economic projects, said Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Jordan is especially appreciative of Bonn for its immediate support and financial aid in the wake of the Gulf crisis to cope with additional burdens on the Kingdom resulting from the war and in maintaining capital, cultural, commercial and economic projects in Jordan, said the minister following his talks with the visiting German Minister for Economic Cooperation Carl Deter Spranger.

After hearing Dr. Fariz's appeal to Germany and the rest of the world community for aid, Mr. Spranger said that his government was ready to give serious consideration to Jordanian requests. Mr. Spranger said that Germany would increase the volume of economic aid to Jordan.

Referring to German-Jordanian talks in June, Dr. Fariz said that the two sides signed minutes providing for technical

and financial cooperation. This, he said, included the allocation of 64 million Deutsche marks to expand and work of the Kibrit Al Samra Waste Water Treatment Plant, the water sector in Jordan, irrigation projects in the northern Jordan Valley region and in eastern Jordan.

It also covered technical cooperation like the expansion of laboratories conducting tests on plants, insecticides, training Jordanian technicians in hospitals on the production of veterinary vaccines, increasing the production of seeds for farming and expanding agricultural projects being implemented at the Zarqa Basin region.

In November, the two sides will discuss German aid to Jordan to help it protect the rocks in the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, Dr. Fariz said.

The consequences of the Gulf crisis were too harsh for Jordan's economy and placed enormous pressure on the Jordanian people, adding to their suffering, the minister said.

He added that with the return to Jordan of 300,000 expatriates, the situation has become very difficult as the country struggles to provide health, educational, transport, water and social services to the growing population. The minister said that Jordan needs at least \$3.7 billion to provide the additional services plus the cost of sustaining such services, estimated to be at least \$1 billion more.

U.N. agency to help farmers increase fruit production

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Wednesday concluded an agreement on implementing a project designed to improve the production of fruit-tree saplings.

According to the agreement, which was signed by Minister of Agriculture Subhi Al Qasem and FAO representative Zohair Abdullah, the project is to produce fruit trees to meet the needs of the local market and end Jordan's reliance on imports.

Work on the \$183,000 project will begin in November and it will take at least one year to complete, according to the agreement. It said that FAO will provide expertise and equipment as well as materials needed for irrigation, the manufacture of crates, pruning equipment and will offer training courses to Jordanians involved in the project.

For its part, Minister of Agriculture will appoint a director for

the national project, ensure all the requirements and facilities to guarantee the project's success. This means providing technicians, workers, offices and plots of land on which the saplings will be grown in nurseries.

Dr. Qasem Wednesday decided to create a data bank to provide data and guidance needed by the farmers to improve their output. The data bank, to be set up at the ministry, will help improve food production in the country, the minister said.

The decision was announced at the minister's meeting with owners of nurseries which produce fruit tree saplings whom he asked to form a committee and prepare a working paper that outlines their role in contributing to the effort of increasing fruit tree saplings in Jordan.

Owners of the nurseries called on the Ministry of Agriculture to increase its production of olive and grape saplings so that they can sell them to the public.

Scientific society celebrates 15th anniversary

By Serene Halesa
Special to the Jordan Times

especially that we did not have any gasoline needed for our transportation."

Dr. Naimi expressed hope that the federation would continue its work in benefiting the Arab World's scientific research capabilities.

Established in August 1976, the federation is concerned with enhancing cooperation and coordination among various councils, academics and organisations dealing with scientific research in Arab countries. The federation also gives due attention to research programmes in various fields, particularly those related to socio-economic development schemes in the Arab World.

About 15 Arab countries are members of the federation. These countries include Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Egypt and Yemen.

In a speech delivered at a gathering of Jordanian and Iraqi scientists, Dr. Naimi highlighted some of the federation's achievements which included the establishment of a special unit for documentation and information related to invention patents and the creation of a data bank aimed at serving Arab researchers and scientists.

Dr. Naimi also spoke of the difficult times the federation experienced during the days of the war and the efforts he and a number of his colleagues made to keep the work of the federation alive.

"We used to open the office twice a week during the war," Dr. Naimi said. "It was hard



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan addresses representatives of former army servicemen in Irbid Wednesday. The Crown Prince thanked the group for their sacrifices for Jordan (Petra photo).

Crown Prince thanks former army servicemen for their devotion on behalf of Jordan

IRBID (Petra) — Jordan is facing serious challenges and the Jordanian people are called on to show solidarity with each other and to intensify their efforts to overcome these difficulties, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Wednesday.

Addressing representatives of former army servicemen and retired officers from the Irbid and Mafrag governorates who number about 70,000, the Prince said Jordanians take pride in and have appreciation of the army officers who were pioneers in offering services to the Kingdom.

There is need for consolidating contacts between the military establishment and the former servicemen but there is also difficulty in conducting a comprehensive survey about the conditions of former military personnel, he said.

He suggested that the former servicemen should themselves conduct the survey and present a working paper outlining their requests and their conditions.

The Crown Prince was replying to a request put forth by one of the retired army officers, Suhai Al Rousan, who demanded that retired officers be offered soft loans to start income-generating projects and loans to set up homes.

The government wishes practical proposals which can help it deal with requests, the Crown Prince said. The Regent added that retired officers' experience would be welcome in various economic projects.

Referring to the situation in Jordan, the Crown Prince said that with the arrival of 230,000 workers from the Gulf countries the unemployment problem in the Kingdom is being aggravated.

The vast experience of this workforce will be utilised and the government is approaching the Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (ESCWA) to provide help in this respect, the Regent said.

The Crown Prince also said

that army officers, regardless of their former ranks, should embark on agricultural schemes. Later, Prince Hassan opened the new Irbid municipality building and met with representatives of the local residents.

In a brief speech to the audience, the Regent stressed the need to put an end to the encroachment of buildings and construction operations on agricultural land. He stressed the need for Jordan to be able to ensure food security for the coming century by properly utilising its land.

The new municipality building consists of four floors and includes a cultural centre, a public library, a conference hall and a shopping centre as well as a car park. Prince Hassan praised the efforts to the Irbid Municipal Council in beautifying the city of Irbid.

Interior Minister Jawdat Esboul and Irbid parliament deputies were among those attending the inauguration ceremony.

Noted journalist remembered

AMMAN (J.T.) — A eulogy was held at the Royal Cultural Centre Wednesday in commemoration of the late Ibrahim Sakijha, a noted journalist, 40 days after his passing away.

A group of journalists and former colleagues and associates of the late Mr. Sakijha delivered speeches in praise of him expressing appreciation of his works and his endeavours for the journalism profession in the Kingdom.

Mr. Sakijha, who was born in occupied Palestine in 1926, had worked for the three Arabic dailies — Al Ra'i, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shab — and had been an active writer and columnist until a few months before his passing away, leaving a heart attack.



Ibrahim Sakijha
The speech was Wednesday praised Mr. Sakijha as a true model of dedication and a servant of his country and nation.

Joint Jordan-Syrian projects to be further discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — The joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee on Public Works and Housing is to convene in Amman in the coming month to follow up discussions started last week in Damascus, according to Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Sourou.

In a statement upon returning to Amman at the end of the talks, the minister said that the two sides will discuss means of speeding up work on the Amman-Damascus International Highway and the status and role of the border posts between the two countries.

During his stay in Damascus, the minister and his Syrian counterpart, Mahmoud Nour Abnabi, signed the minutes of deliberations in which they agreed on holding four workshops during the coming year aimed at streamlining public works and housing affairs between the two countries.

The workshops, according to the minister, will deal with such questions as roads, contracting business and construction in general. They agreed to set up committees to prepare for the



Saad Hayel Sourou
projected technical workshops.

Other issues discussed included joint Syrian and Jordanian stands at international and regional meetings dealing with matters related to housing or public works, the minister said.

The workshops, according to the minister, will deal with such questions as roads, contracting business and construction in general. They agreed to set up committees to prepare for the

Draft law seeks to promote investments in Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade has prepared a draft law, encouraging investments in Jordan, which allows for exemptions from taxes and provides facilities for industrial, agricultural and other projects.

According to the draft law, exemptions will be given to investors in fisheries, educational and touristic projects, maritime transport, restaurants, housing and other ventures considered viable to promote socio-economic development in the Kingdom.

The draft law, which needs to be endorsed by the Council of Ministers and parliament, grants exemptions from duty to inputs required for production, primary materials used in manufacturing products, materials used in industry and raw materials in general.

A special committee will be set up to draw up a list of the materials to be regarded as input elements for industry. Viability studies should be submitted and approved by the ministry.

Also, approval will depend on such elements as the size of the project, the amount of investments and the location of the project, according to the draft law.

Non-Jordanian investors will be granted incentives and exemptions on equal footing with Jordanians and they will be allowed to transfer any amounts of profits abroad.

The draft law authorised the Council of Ministers, upon recommendation from the concerned minister and the committee, the right to extend the period of exemptions for each project.

interest.

One of the projects in which Petra Bank funds were invested through a company called Imwas was the Al Waha department store, according to the findings of the committee. Mr. Abdul Aziz, acting on behalf of Petra Bank, bought shares in Imwas, which was in turn controlled by Dr. Chalabi, according to the findings.

Dr. Waked produced a number of documents bearing the signature of Mr. Abdul Aziz to support the committee's findings, which is the cornerstone of the prosecution's case.

The documents, according to the prosecution, support charges of Mr. Abdul Aziz's responsibility not only in the Al Waha case but also in several other loss-making Petra Bank investments.

The lawyers for Hassan Abdul Aziz, former chairman of the Jordan Gulf Bank who also served in the Chalabi management of the Petra Bank, and Hassan Fadel, who served as the Amman representative for the Petra Banking Corporation in Washington, D.C., were cross-examining Maher Waked, a banking executive who was a member of the committee which investigated Petra Bank affairs following its take-over by the CJB in August 1988.

Findings of the investigation presented by Dr. Waked said that Mr. Abdul Aziz was instrumental in bringing about Petra Bank investments to local companies, which led to losses for the bank but apparently benefited the personal interests of Dr. Chalabi or his family members who owned the ventures. In some cases, according to the committee, it was also found that Mr. Abdul Aziz steered Petra Bank funds into buying shares at inflated prices in companies in which he had a personal

interest.

Such operations, involving "several hundred million dollars," led to huge losses for investors, the prosecution claims.

Among such losses, which led to the collapse of several

Petra Bank hearing focuses on role of two key defendants

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

leading exchange houses in Jordan, were the funds of Saliba Rizk and Saliba Shukri Rizk — which was declared bankrupt in 1986 after the suicide of Saliba Rizk — and Khalil Masri, another former major moneychanger in Jordan.

(However, the losses in the commodity markets abroad were not the only reason for the collapse of the firms, according to local economists. The total amount involved in the Rizk case was close to JD 18 million).

Mr. Fadel is accused of violating Jordanian banking rules by soliciting Jordanian deposits in foreign currency in the Petra Banking Corporation, which, by law, is defined as a foreign bank, and by encouraging Jordanians to speculate in foreign commodity markets.

Again, Mr. Fadel's defence is based on shifting the entire responsibility to Dr. Chalabi by arguing that he was carrying out the orders of the Iraqi-born banker. To counter this argument, the investigating committee has produced supporting documents, including copies of foreign communications signed by Mr. Fadel directing transactions and transfers.

Cross-examining Dr. Waked were lawyers Saleh Al Beirut, Suleiman Hadidi and Mahmoud Hamad, who, individually or collectively, are representing Mr. Fadel, Mr. Abdul Aziz, Khalil Tadros, Mona (Denis) Tadros and Hiam Hashash.

Dr. Waked's testimony was predominantly related to foreign operations of Petra Bank, which is under liquidation.

Dr. Chalabi and several other key defendants are being tried in absentia and are not represented in court after they failed to respond to a court summons.

Exhibit recounting the horrors of Gulf war to be shown in the United States

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An exhibit depicting the tragedy of one of the Gulf war's most controversial incidents will wind its way through the United States in a few months with explicit pictures and oral testimony by some of the survivors.

The Amriyah Exhibit, a series of photographs and eyewitness accounts of the bombing of the Amriyah shelter in Baghdad, is the work of Americans Miriam Martin, her son Christopher Martin, Jill Castek and Jordanian Mohammad Satti.

Members of "Peace Now!", the group spent about a month in Iraq interviewing survivors and local residents about the bombing of the shelter which took the lives of over 250 people. The United States and other allied countries claimed intelligence reports had identified the shelter as a communications centre.

The tragedy sparked a world outcry and some of the harshest criticism about the allied bombing policy during the war.

"I just thought it was so wrong that here is a civilian bomb shelter, and it had to be known to allied forces, and Amriyah residents felt the same way," said Ms. Martin, who added that satellites could have been used as a way to properly identify the shelter.

"Why was this a target?"

Organisers of the exhibit hope to increase Americans' awareness of the human cost of the war, which has been sold in the United States and in the West as high-tech, bloodless and antisocial, said Ms. Martin.

"Americans have no conception that this wasn't a high-tech war," she said.

"(Words such as) collateral damage were used as if they were things while bombs were 'smart' as if they were human," she added.



In remembrance of those who died, the Peace Now! team planted two trees in Amriyah. Umm Chayda, Ms. Martin's mother, said the soul of her daughter was in one of those trees and watered it every day.

"And if the tree dies, she feels like her daughter will have died again," Ms. Martin said.

The exhibit will also bring to Americans the story of Khalida, who was sleeping in the shelter when the bombs were dropped.

According to Ms. Martin, Khalida struggled to the entrance of the shelter and saved a toddler and a seven-year-old boy but lost her own child in the process.

The exhibit will tour nine American cities — Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and Seattle.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, Yugoslavia discuss relations

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Ali Suheirat Wednesday received in his office the Yugoslav ambassador to Jordan on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty. Discussion in the meeting centred on ways of promoting and bolstering bilateral relations.

Labour minister meets ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughami Wednesday received the Tunisian ambassador to Jordan. The meeting discussed ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries particularly in labour-related fields.

Sports federations' rule to be amended

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Saleh Ersheidat Tuesday said that significant amendments to the rules and regulations of sport federations would be proposed in preparation for submitting them to the Jordanian Olympic Committee for debate. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Ersheidat singled out a proposed amendment calling for electing half of the sport federations members, as one of the major amendments to be introduced. Federation members were until now selected

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Model of cooperation

EMPEROR FREDERICK II of Germany was crowned King of Jerusalem in 1229. The emperor, who read Arabic and who while King of Sicily wore Arab dresses and "liked Arab women," did not become King of Jerusalem by virtue of his military might, but, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica, "because of the impact of (his) personality on the Arab World." This is not to suggest that Germany has a claim to Jerusalem. The old city is already burdened by those who claim it and those, present and past, who turned it into a battleground rather than a symbol of peace. We Arabs, in recalling Frederick II's reluctance to lead a crusade, look upon Germany of today as a long-time friend of the Arabs, an old friendship manifested by the fine exchange of letters between the emperor and Al Sultan Al Kamil of Egypt.

In these trying hours of our history, when power centres shift and small and weak nations strive to achieve their rights, we look to the newly united Germany with great hope and trust. We think that Germany, the centre of the European Community, the third industrialist nation in the world and the country credited, through its oil policies, much of the change in Eastern Europe, should assume a much larger role in world affairs. For while the Eastern Bloc and the Soviet Union are disintegrating, we see the other powers in Europe, especially France and Britain, jumping onto the American bandwagon but hardly having any effect on the U.S.-made "new world order."

In such a "new order," we certainly would like to see our German friends assuming a greater role and taking one of the permanent seats in the Security Council. We believe that the Germans, 20 per cent of whom are still from the World War II generation, should not be kept from influencing the new world order. In the Middle East especially, the Germans have a dual responsibility. While shedding away their guilt feelings about the Jews, they should develop a strong one about the Palestinians. Certainly the Palestine problem is one created by the world that emerged from World War II. We do appreciate that Germany has presently to grapple with its own chores of unity and with the effects of the chaos in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Yet, the threat coming from the Eastern Mediterranean is just as menacing. In his address to the European Parliament yesterday, His Majesty King Hussein warned our European friends that the people of the Middle East "will simply not continue to accept to be treated other than equals with all others in this world. They will not continue for long to see their land produce the major resources of energy for this world's development in return for what they perceive as continued disdain, humiliation and the denial of their national and human rights."

Indeed, it requires the wisdom of people like Frederick II to ensure that justice will prevent vengeance, and cooperation will pre-empt conflict. And our German friends are well placed to exercise such wisdom.

We see the current visit to Jordan of German Economic Cooperation Minister Carl Dieter Spranger as a step towards accomplishing this objective. German-Jordanian relations have been a model to follow between this region of the world and Europe. We would like them to endure and grow even stronger all the time.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Wednesday focused attention on the plight of the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates who have now returned to the Kingdom after serving most of their lives in Kuwait building that country and enabling it to achieve prosperity. The paper said that as these expatriates returned empty-handed deprived of their rights, their savings and their other property and evicted in a most shameful manner on the part of the Kuwaiti government, we bear of no protest against such action on the part of the United States or Britain, neither did we read any statement by a Western official condemning such atrocity committed against innocent civilians. In his statement on Jordan Television the Crown Prince referred to this fact and called on the Western countries to come to the aid of the Jordanian-Palestinian community being resettled in Jordan, the paper noted. It said while we hear of billions of dollars being spent by Washington to settle Jews emigrating into occupied Palestine from the Soviet Union, nothing is being done to the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates who are rightly entitled to compensation and should not be left displaced, without any source of income or shelter. A total of 300,000 expatriates are now settled in the Kingdom which, the paper said, has been reeling under the effects of the embargo imposed on it along with Iraq. It said we had hoped that the United States would be fair and come to the help of the expatriates being evicted from the emirate for no reason at all; and we had hoped that it would help the Kingdom which is now struggling to shoulder this new burden.

Al Dustour daily tackled the current Arab League Council meeting which is being attended by all Arab countries to discuss the Palestine question among other topics. It is regrettable indeed to see such an important meeting being held in secret with no access to the media to learn about the discussions at a time when the Arab masses are hoping to see a gleam of hope as to the solution of numerous problems plaguing the Arab World, the paper noted. The meeting is being held at a time when the Arab Nation is at its worst situation with no solidarity among the members of the Arab League that has been set up to protect Arab interests, the paper added. The Arab League member countries ought to address the pressing issues like the embargo on Iraq, the plight of the Palestinians in Kuwait and other vital issues, taking a collective stand towards safeguarding Arab national interests, the paper demanded. The Arab League shoulders a responsibility towards the coming generations and, said the paper, it is hoped that the foreign ministers attending the meeting now will take a meaningful step that can contribute a little towards the march towards solidarity.

Exclusive yet not exquisite: a tale of woe

By Safwan Bataineh

FOR the longest time now I have had an urge to relate a tale of little moral significance to my readers (all five of them) but was checked from doing so by a curious aversion to professional suicide. However, when my editor finally despaired of finding decent writers who are willing to fill Thursdays' page four with original masterpieces for a kiss and a handshake and took to showering me with friendly and reassuring smiles, I knew I could risk forwarding my tale to him and still be around to publish my scribbles come next Thursday.

This tale is about an ancient and powerful order that feeds parasitically upon the beautiful but hopeless country of Berinjiland. The order is known as the Civil Service Order, though the name bears no relation to the functions actually performed. It is steeped in a long and rich tradition of soporific lethargy that dates back to the Middle-Age dynasty of the Black Beards which reigned supreme over the Benioj region for hundreds of years. Its rites and customs were modified only once since then during the early century colonial rule of Goldie Locks.

The order is so powerful that almost all activities in Berinjiland are controlled by it or subject to its control. Every conceivable enterprise, from importing Pierre Cardin suits (available only to choice patrons) to staging plays and dance shows, is performed by members of the Order. And when ordinary citizens are permitted

to undertake certain commercial activities — after the order verifies their desirability — they do so at the risk of arbitrary interference by members of the Order who are always eager to instruct the plebeians on the proper ways of doing things.

The Order maintains this tight control through a maze of edict laws and regulations that are binding only to ordinary citizens. Total freedom of arbitrary action is guaranteed for the Order by the lack of procedure manuals or job descriptions to define the roles and authority of any member or group of members. Also, clauses are attached to all laws stipulating that regardless of the aforementioned, the Order reserves the right to do whatever it darn pleases.

Like all successful orders, the Civil Service Order perpetuates its unique structure and values by retaining a high degree of exclusivity. New memberships are granted only to impressionable and pliant young men and women, preferably ones who are bereft of ambitions. Those are then cultivated, moulded, and cast irreversibly into paragons of sloth and indolence. Entry at any level other than the most junior one is strictly forbidden in order to keep away elements that are contaminated by foreign values and influences. Of course, the Order occasionally fails to induce the proper values into a member and be or she continues to exhibit an annoying inclination for uninvited initiatives. Such

subversive elements are either frustrated into capitulation or ignored until inactivity renders them useless anyhow.

Although members are guaranteed their membership for life or thirty years, whichever comes first, high priests and senior members are sometimes sacrificed after just twenty years in order to appease the council of wise men (and two women) who are appointed by the benevolent ruler of Berinjiland and directed to steer the country on the path of prosperity. These sacrifices are part of the efforts expended by the Order to ensure that the council of wise men (and two women) fail to initiate any serious and lasting reforms. Other means employed to achieve this end include producing long and tedious proposals on administrative reforms written in esoteric language and containing the most superficial of ideas in a deliberate effort to divert the wise men's attention from more serious issues. But the most effective stratagem is to deluge the council with a continuous flood of routine and inconsequential matters to keep it from spending any appreciable amount of time on major policy initiatives.

I would not be exaggerating if I single out the Order as the biggest obstacle to Berinjiland's strive for modernisation. But that is Berinjiland's lookout. My only concern is that the Order may attempt to branch out into Jordan. A remote possibility, of course, considering that almost no activity can escape the watchful eyes of our bureaucracy.

King: Jordan well placed on democratic path; injustice will usher in unpredictable change

The following is the full text of the address made by His Majesty King Hussein to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 1991.

Mr. President of the European Parliament,
Mr. President of the Council,
Mr. President of the Commission,
Distinguished members of Parliament,

IT is with a deep sense of historic responsibility that I stand before you today addressing this august body — the honourable representatives of the peoples of the European Community States, members of the European Parliament.

I thank you most sincerely for the privilege and honour of your invitation to address you at this critical and exciting time of change on our planet earth. I hope I may succeed in sharing with you, in friendship and with candour, my innermost feelings, hopes and assessments which I believe reflect those of the proud people of Jordan who have committed themselves to democracy and Jordanians from the Gulf, some of them sadly bearing the scars and trauma of vicious and inhuman abuses.

Jordan, has always cherished as her most precious natural resource her people; we can view with pride our achievements over the past decade in the field of human development. We are one of ten countries in the world to have achieved the fastest reduction in infant mortality over the past two decades. We were two years ahead of the average rate of the rest of the world in achieving universal child immunisation. Our rates of literacy, education, and access to health services and clean water are among the highest in the developing world, and in many cases approach rates in the industrialised states of the North. Yet, all this could now be jeopardised if the current economic implosion is not arrested and reversed.

My country's march on the road of democracy, which was interrupted by the 1967 war, resumed following the severing of legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank on the 31st July, 1988. The severance of the ties came in response to Palestinian and Arab demands and in recognition of the Palestinians' desire for their distinctive identity and the reaffirmation of their rights on their Palestinian soil. Before that it had been impossible to hold parliamentary free elections involving the Israeli occupied West Bank.

Jordan is leading the Arab World towards true democracy and pluralism even before the winds of change took Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and others by storm in this era of constant change.

It was my proud decision to re-democratised Jordan and it was my privilege to call upon all Jordanians, regardless of their origins and representing all political forces, to participate in a Royal Commission to forge, through constructive dialogue, our National Charter. This paved the way for pluralism and the emergence of political parties with the endorsement of the Charter by a National Congress on the 9th of June, 1991. The Charter committed all political forces to respect the total political status of the Jordanian armed and security forces. These forces will continue to provide our national shield against all threats and remain committed to the defence of the land, the people and their human rights and freedoms under the Constitution.

I am proud to have succeeded throughout my political life in guiding Jordan away from the danger of autocratic rule or the single party system and the politi-

cisation of the armed and security forces. I am proud to have enabled my country's men and women to move in equality towards democracy. We strove to transform Jordan into a beacon of hope to be an example which I honestly believe all Arabs aspire to emulate. If we have had to suffer for providing this example then we are proud to have done so.

The Gulf crisis continues — the crisis we attempted to reverse peacefully as a sacred duty and within our rights as members of the Arab League of Nations. May I add here that this crisis erupted during my presidency of the Arab Cooperation Council which, until then, comprised Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and the Yemen — another reason for me to actively involve myself in seeking a peaceful political solution, added to which was my record and that of my country of a constant struggle to achieve Arab cohesion. We are continuing to pay for our sincere attempt to achieve that end — to avert a war which would inevitably tear the very fabric of our Arab family. The war resulted in terrible human losses and continuing untold human suffering to present and future generations. Further serious violations of human rights and environmental damage to the region and the world is not yet fully realised or controlled.

The war cost all Arabs great material losses leaving ever deepening wounds that will continue to bleed until the winds of change, if not needed, will be brought down swiftly, unexpectedly, and in some cases violently, the forces of autocracy, dictatorship and single party rule in different parts of the world, will sweep our world where I suggest, that in the absence of positive movement, none should expect less. The Arab and Muslim peoples will not continue to remain comatosed.

The people in our region will simply not continue to accept to be treated other than as equals with all others in this world. They will not continue for long to see their land produce the major resources of energy for this world's development in return for what they perceive as continued disdain, humiliation and the denial of their national and human rights.

What was Jordan's position on the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq? We stood true to our principles and consistent with our position on every similar previous case of the acquisition of territories by war. The preamble of Security Council Resolution 242 adopted on the 22nd of November, 1967, which I helped formulate, derived from the Charter of the United Nations, cited the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territories by war. That was our position on Iraq's occupation of Kuwait notwithstanding our extremely close relations with Iraq and our grave and continued concern and empathy with all the people of Iraq. Our position on the invasion and occupation of Kuwait was consistent with our position on the Cyprus crisis, the Falklands crisis and one which we will continue to take again should such a new act of occupation of territory by war repeat itself in any other part of the world.

Additionally, we simply sought to exercise our right to help reverse the tragic event which took place

on the 2nd of August, 1990 and to resolve peacefully the causes that had brought it about. We have since published a White Paper outlining major events as we lived them, accurately, concisely and chronologically. The White Paper is a bare sketch of Jordan's policies in the face of the shocking tragic events which erupted on the 2nd of August, 1990, apprising blame on none but purely relying facts for posterity.

Some, for whatever reasons, sadly chose from the outset to market with vigour a distorted version of the truth and persist in their attempts at rewriting history. On our side, however, is the truth and a record that has stood the test of time for principled policies, honour, moral integrity and courage.

Jordan today is suffering from serious hardship and mounting inexplicable pressures from many quarters. To cite some examples, ships operating to and from our only seaport at Aqaba have been continuously harassed. Four hundred and one ships have been intercepted, delayed, turned back, or diverted to other ports over the period beginning in August of 1990 until the 5th September, 1991. Traditional markets for our mineral, agricultural and industrial products have been adversely affected. No other state neighbouring Iraq has been similarly treated. Our national airline, our ambassador of good will to the world, is threatened before our efforts to privatise and reorganise it materialise.

All of our modern fleet of airbus and Lockheed Tristar aircraft had to be evacuated to Europe for the duration of the crisis as the high insurance premiums gave us no alternative. Our airbus fleet remained grounded at the duration. They said, "As a result, didn't have the necessary income to repay 200% cost in accordance with the original planned schedule.

Our is a land of history, scenic beauty and hospitality and tourism is one of our major industries. Jordan is an international and regional crossroad. For an almost land-locked country, air travel and aerial links with the world are of great importance. Our achievements in the field of civil aviation are unmatched. They were the inevitable results of dedication, imagination, courage and professionalism. Our national airline is now operating at full capacity. Plans for privatisation and reorganisation are well under way. However, we have been advised that the airbus fleet may be withdrawn shortly because of our current inability to pay the arrears. If this happens we shall not only lose this modern fleet but also loss all of what we had paid back from our revenues, both before and since the crisis, the Royal Jordanian Airlines would thus be dealt a crippling blow.

During the crisis one million people transited Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq to their respective countries. We did all we could for them. As a result of the first economic crisis of 1989 and the relocation to Jordan of some 230,000 Palestinians and Jordanians from Kuwait and the Gulf — expected to reach 300,000 by the end of 1991 — unemployment has soared to unprecedented levels and presently stands at 32 per cent including 83 per cent unemployment amongst returnees, while schools are having to absorb an additional 13 per cent of students into a crowded educational system by December 1991. Tens of thousands of Iraqis are also in Jordan seeking asylum from the ever growing human tragedy afflicting the people of

Iraq. Jordan is attempting to cope with all this in its traditional manner of compassion and generosity. The burden under which we are struggling grows heavier by the day.

It behoves our world to uphold the same standards in dealing with all problems of a similar nature wherever they occur. Our world must unite in peace and share equally in efforts to hand over a better legacy to future generations. Power in our world must not be recognised in terms of the material and physical only, otherwise it would be greedy, misguided, unethical and dangerous. Power in our world must be identified with a sense of responsibility and the strictest adherence to lofty principles and ideals. True knowledge is an asset for all of us to tackle life's challenges, yet half truth and the illusion of knowledge based on what we hear and read alone could lead to meet dangerous consequences.

Wars must be averted in our world. The price of waging them is too high for us to bear in the human, environmental and material dimensions. Truth must not be kept from the peoples of the world regarding the growing threats to the continued existence of mankind. The global environmental crisis is ominously precarious. Action must be taken by the United Nations, international organisations, governments and peoples to outlaw and prevent further environmental degradation by war.

The continued and growing depletion of the ozone layer must be addressed. The continued destruction of the tropical rain forests requires urgent attention. Global warming is a present reality and an ever increasing threat to the survival of the human race.

The oil fires in Kuwait must be extinguished as rapidly as possible and the resultant effects of these fires and emissions on the global environment must be continuously monitored. The continued damage to land masses, seas and oceans as a result of oil spills, unsafe dumping of toxic chemicals and nuclear waste must be stopped and wherever possible redressed.

The continued production, sale (Continued on page 5)

LETTERS

Music and politics

"ART transcends politics." Or so I thought until last night's performance by the Baghdad Chamber Ensemble. A group of six outstanding Iraqi performers captivated their audience during two hours of well-balanced, nicely performed and impeccably executed music. I went to the concert eager to find out what caliber of musicians Iraq could possibly produce after so many years of hardship, only to be pleasantly surprised by the quality of musicianship I witnessed.

I was, however, disturbed by the relatively poor attendance — less than half the hall was occupied. Notable in the paucity of their presence were members of the foreign community, diplomatic and otherwise. Whereas at most classical music performances in Amman roughly two thirds of the audience is European (and some Americans), this time they amounted to one or two dozen people only.

Was this another form of boycotting Iraq? Or could it have been due to the belief that an Arab group of musicians would only produce music of inferior quality. I have already stated my opinion of this group and only hope that we could have more such performances in the future. That would certainly be better than some of the third rate Western musicians dumped on us in the Third World ...

Dr. Ehsan Azar,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Weekender

Sept. 12, 1991 **A**

Published Every Thursday

Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid: as my life played me a serenade, I danced around it like a gypsy

Until her death last week, Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid was nearly as old as the century yet, history will record that she was one of the brightest stars of a family which illustrates the Ottoman Empire's seductive combination of grandeur and emancipation.

By Philip Mansel

TURKISH women could lead independent and challenging lives even before the reforms of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. At the Ottoman court the harem was a separate female power-base which could decide the future of sultans and viziers. After the Young Turk revolution of 1908, the writer Halide Edib, a friend of the Bloomsbury group, helped found the Society for the Elevation of Women. And on June 6, 1919, unveiled, she made a famous speech in Istanbul's Sultanahmet Square, urging the huge crowd to liberate Izmir from the Greeks.

There were modern girls' schools in Istanbul and one of their most emancipated pupils, in 1920, was Fahrelnissa Sakir, later to become Her Royal Highness Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid of Jordan. Her family history illustrates the Ottoman Empire's seductive combination of grandeur and nobility. Prin-

cess Fahrelnissa's grandfather Asim came from a family of teachers in Afyon Karahisar in Anatolia. Since they disapproved of his desire to be a soldier, he arrived in Istanbul, hidden under a pile of vegetables. He eventually became one of the five members of the Military Council of the Empire.

His eldest son, Cevat Pasha, was appointed Grand Vizier in 1891 at the age of 40. Cevat Pasha was a particularly cultivated member of the late Ottoman élite. He spoke Turkish, Arabic, Greek, Italian and French, wrote a history of the Ottoman army, employed a French gardener to look after his orchids and was also a skilled potter and photog-

rapher.

Princess Fahrelnissa's father, Cevat Pasha's younger brother Sakir Pasha, a prominent officer, ambassador and historian, was shot dead by his own son, Cevat, in 1914. The family said it



Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid

was an accident. However, Cevat, whose extravagance and determination to be an artist had led to many quarrels with his father, was accused of murder.

In prison and then in Bodrum (Halicarnassus) on the Aegean, "the fisherman of Halicarnassus," as he came

to be known, had ample opportunity to realise his talents. He became one of Turkey's best-known novelists and essayists, writing in a simple natural style about the local people, landscape and archaeology.

Princess Fahrelnissa was born in 1901 in the large wooden family house on Buyukada, one of the Princes' Isles in the Sea of Marmara south of Istanbul. She was educated at the Pensioante Broggiotti and the Academy of Fine Arts founded by Sultan Abdul Hamid. Her first husband, Izzet Melih Devrim, president of the Imperial Ottoman Tobacco Monopoly, was a writer and a Francophile and she was able to continue her art studies in Paris.

Like most of the Ottoman élite, her family rallied to the Republic. Her brothers-in-law, Emin Pasha and Ahmed, fought in the War of Independence; Princess Fahrelnissa knew Ataturk and attended some of the historic conferences in Dolmabahce Palace.

After the dissolution of her first marriage in 1934 she married Prince Zeid, a member of the Hashemite Arab dynasty which has helped create the modern Middle East. Prince Zeid's father Sherif Hussein Bin Ali, Emir of Mecca, launched the Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire in 1916. One of Prince Zeid's brothers was the Emir Abdullah, grandfather of His Majesty King Hussein. Another was King Faisal of Iraq.

Like many Arab leaders of

the first half of the 20th

century, Prince Zeid was a product of Istanbul in its last days of imperial glory, when differences between Turks and Arabs were less significant than their shared Ottoman Muslim heritage.

Just as Princess Fahrelnissa was a Turk with an Arab grandmother, so Prince Zeid was an Arab with a Turkish mother. Born in 1898 in Istanbul, where his father was the Sultan's guest (or prisoner), he knew Turkish well. Despite revolting against the Ottoman Empire, the Hashemites maintained a residence in its former capital, the Serife Keskü, overlooking the Bosphorus, where Prince and Princess Zeid lived for a time.

Prince Zeid then pursued a dazzling diplomatic career, serving as Iraqi ambassador in Ankara under Ataturk, in Berlin under Hitler and in London under Churchill and Eden.

People still remember the splendour of the banquet Prince and Princess Zeid gave in honour of the state visit to England of their great-nephew King Faisal II of Iraq in 1956. Two years later, the young king was murdered with his family in Baghdad. The prince and his family had to exchange the embassy in Kensington Palace Gardens for a quiet life in a flat Oakwood Court, London.

Although she enjoyed her position as an ambassador's wife, Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid did not allow it to overshadow her career as an artist. One of those fortunate people who know how to make the most of their lives, she says: "As my life played a serenade, I danced around it like a gypsy."

She has painted all her life and is confident of her status as a great artist. "When I am painting I am always aware of a kind of communion with all living things... I then cease to be myself in order to become part of an impersonal creative process that throws out these paintings much as an erupting volcano throws out rocks and lava. Often I am aware of what I have painted only when the canvas is at last finished."

Her art, like her life, is an intoxicating mixture of East and West. At first she used a semi-impressionist style, but after 1950 she turned to abstract art and painted as a member of the Ecole de Paris. Even at the height of her abstract phase there seemed to be an element of oriel design in her choice of colours and patterns.

Some of her portraits — those of King Hussein's eldest daughter Princess Alia and of a bedouin family, for example — are partly in-

spired by the hieratic figures and mosaics in Byzantine churches. Spurred by her discovery of cookery after her husband ceased to be ambassador, she also made surreal collages of chicken or turkey bones and stones, set in glass and resin and powered by small electric motors, which she called paleochrysalts.

They were so admired by André Malraux when he was minister of culture under General de Gaulle that he placed one on his desk. The princess has held exhibitions at locations as varied as the Gimpel Gallery in London in 1949, the Hittite Museum in Ankara in 1964, the Katia Granoff Gallery in Paris in 1969, and the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman in 1983.

When Prince Zeid died in 1970, Princess Fahrelnissa decided to move to Amman, the capital of her great nephew King Hussein, to be near her son Prince Ra'ad, Lord Chamberlain of the Royal Hashemite Court and the father of five children (including a young daughter called Fahrelnissa).

From the outside, the princess's small stone villa looks like many others in the suburbs of Amman. Inside, in the words of her daughter by her first marriage Sirin Devrim, it is a "miracle of colour, opulence and excitement."

Her L-shaped drawing-room is full of framed family photographs, her own dramatic pictures (covering the ceiling as well as every inch of the walls) and whirling paleochrysalts. The princess's villa also acts as headquarters of the Royal National Jordanian Fine Arts Institute. Fahrelnissa Zeid, for, despite old age and ill-health, she is the teacher and inspiration of many devoted pupils. She used to give lessons every Wednesday and still paints every day.

Her personality was so warm and enveloping, her conversation so fascinating — the critic Cemil Eren compared her to a magnetic storm — that visitors found it hard to leave. As her orderly poured more champagne, talk ranged from the colour of the dresses worn by her mother's slaves in Istanbul to the strange death of King Ghazi of Iraq in Baghdad, from tea with Hitler in the Reichskanzlei to the exploits of her husband in World War II.

Princess Fahrelnissa was not the only member of her bright and relentless family to have devoted herself to the arts. Her sister Aliye Berger, who married a Hungarian violinist, was an acclaimed etcher and held a legendary salon in an old house in



Paleochrysalts

Beyoglu, the "European" quarter of Istanbul.

In "Strolling Through Istanbul," Hilary Summer-Boyd and John Freely wrote that she was "one of the most fascinating and entertaining women in this or any other city. For more years than she can hope to forget, Aliye's place has been the madcap centre of the local artistic scene."

The Sakirs' cosmopolitanism is as extraordinary as their commitment to the arts. It is a relic of Ottoman Istanbul, when it was a junction of cultures and religions, as well as a tribute to the age of the global village. Frontiers mean nothing to this gifted multilingual tribe, whose members live in New York, Istanbul, Amman and Krakow, home of Princess Fahrelnissa's son Nejad Devrim, who is also a painter and is married to a Pole.

A typically cosmopolitan and spirited occasion, marvellously described by her daughter Sirin Devrim in "Stars of Istanbul," is the birthday of Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid in Amman. Wear-

ing a long black evening gown and sitting in one of the large gilt armchairs from the house of her uncle the Grand Vizier, which have followed her wherever she lived, she first receives her children and grandchildren.

As her daughter-in-law Majda, wife of Prince Ra'ad, is Swedish, in accordance with a Swedish custom they arrive early in the morning wearing wigs and funny clothes.

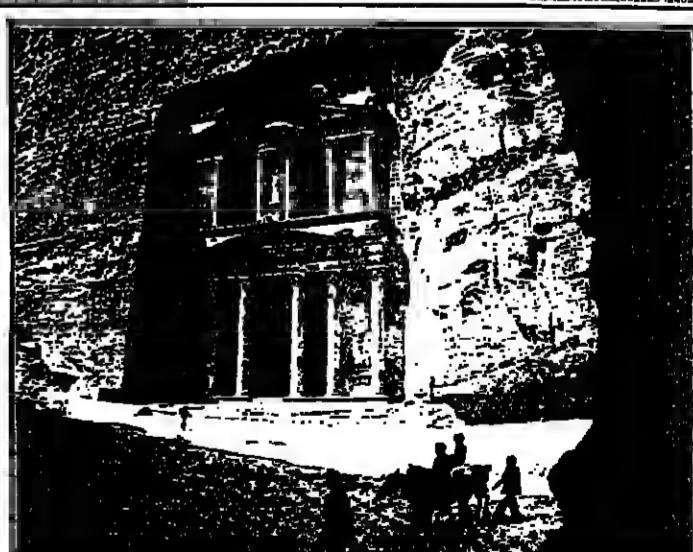
Prince Zeid, whose dark-eyed brooding portrait dominates the room, courted her when they were playing tennis, so her birthday cake is in the shape of a tennis racket. Other food is Turkish — pilav, grilled lamb, clotted cream and honey — enhanced by caviar and champagne.

Jordanian sentries are at the door; a Polish band plays Arabic and American tunes; and bouquets of flowers arrive from King Hussein and Queen Noor. Guests troop in bearing splendid presents. The princess declares: "I am so happy, so happy, so happy. We are all together with the stars."

The profile of Princess Fahrelnissa was published in the Turkish magazine, *Turquoise*.



The Bosphorus (1943)



The rock-cut monument of the Treasury in Petra

come from Europe, particularly Italy, Spain, Germany, France and Britain. But before the crisis Japanese and Koreans were starting to put in an appearance.

The tourists are starting to drift back. Traditionally they

however, Petra now is Petra as it ought to be seen.

"Good day for it, mate," said one Australian with a crewcut and kitbag as he wandered through the near-deserted central valley. "There's no one around."

Petra wakes up slowly from Gulf crisis slumber

By Nicholas Phythian
Reuter

PETRA — Petra, the ancient rose-red city carved from the mountains of southern Jordan, is reawakening slowly from a deep and unwanted sleep induced by the Gulf crisis.

Tourists frightened off by neighbouring Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August last year are starting to rediscover the delights of the 2,400-year-old fortress city that lay hidden from the world for centuries. But six months after the Gulf war their numbers remain a fraction of what they were in the heady days before the crisis when locals dreamed of doubling the number of visitors.

Petra, about 200 kilometres south of Amman, was the capital of the Nabataean Arabs who lived on the main caravan route north from the Arabian peninsula.

"It was a terrible season for us," guide Mohammad Salama said as he walked through the early morning

sunshine from the nearly-empty government Resthouse. "When the war started it was as though someone threw a switch. We spent four months waiting and waiting."

Mr. Salama, born in the adjoining town of Wadi Musa 46 years ago and a guide on and off since 1963, said the 1967 Middle East War, in which Israel occupied the West Bank, was kinder on Petra than the Gulf crisis.

"While the 1967 war was going on we still used to get some individual parties," he added wistfully.

Apart from those working for the small hotels, there are about 60 souvenir sellers, 30 guides and 360 bedouins with horses offering tourists rides into the heart of the city.

"From Jan. 10 to the end of February (during the Gulf war) ... no one came to Petra," said Niyazi Shabaa,

head of the Wadi Musa Tourism Department.

"Now we get approximately 100 per day. If you compare that with the past months it's great."

Souvenir seller Ali Motlak, a bedouin born in Petra, said that before the crisis, more than 1,000 tourists would visit the city on some days.

"We hope that after one month or two months the people will start to come again," he added, as he stood at his stall selling bedouin silver necklaces and other trinkets.

A record 125,000 people visited Petra in 1990, even though the second half of the year was a washout. In April alone, there were 21,000 visitors.

"This year so far we have had just 12,000," Mr. Shabaa said.

Mohammad Tal, manager

of the government Guesthouse, has a chart on his wall which shows month after month of losses — a total of 270,000 dinars (\$450,000) in all during the crisis.

"July was a loss but we are now breaking even," he said.

Mr. Tal said the crisis hit the small hotels particularly badly. "The government has been helping them," he added.

Many in Wadi Musa looked for alternative work. "A lot of people were sitting without work for a year. They borrowed money from their families," said Mr. Motlak, 35, who worked as a taxi driver. Others worked as labourers or went to Aqaba on the Red Sea to find jobs.

There were even mutterings among the bedouins that they would have to put down their horses for lack of food. In the event, the Brooke

Hospital for Horses, a charity set up by an Englishwoman in Egypt, came to the rescue.

"During the crisis this society took care of feeding the horses," Mr. Shabaa said.

Before the crisis, tourism earned Wadi Musa about JD2 million (more than \$3 million) a year — about half of the total going to the government Guesthouse and the Petra Forum, the other main hotel.

Both are now expanding and building new rooms in anticipation of better days ahead. There is also talk of reviving pre-crisis plans for two new 300-bed hotels.

"We were supposed to have an income of three million dinars (\$5 million) by this year," Mr. Shabaa said, adding that they had been hoping for 250,000 visitors.

The tourists are starting to drift back. Traditionally they

come from Europe, particularly Italy, Spain, Germany, France and Britain. But before the crisis Japanese and Koreans were starting to put in an appearance.

For the handful of tourists who have made it this year,

Hospital visits

By Maha Addasi

If you want to make somebody in hospital even sicker, just visit them there — and to those who are being visited, my deepest condolences.

People have the weirdest ways of greeting the ill. They just have to go up to them, pump their arm and kiss them. They also have to lean against them while kissing them. Then they say something like, "you really look tired." Which miraculously is the very reason why the patient is still in hospital.

Then of course there are the restrictions on what can be taken into the patient's room. For example, food seems to be restricted in some hospitals, but as far as food goes, it has been witnessed that everything short of live-chicken has been smuggled into the patient's room. Of course that food always depends on the patient's favourite.

Sometimes the patient can not even think about favourite food, let alone actually eat it. But what can we say. Visitors just care about the patient so much. They also love them to pieces, all of a sudden. They could have gone moods without visiting the patient when he or she were in good health. But the minute he gets sick and pops into hospital, they want to rush to the hospital to see in what shape the patient is really in. "She looks better than I thought," they whisper to each other as they leave, almost as though disappointed.

When the patient is a woman who has just delivered, the visitors visit along with their children whom they promise they will see "the little baby." So the children come along for this educational visit because this is their chance to poke a baby at close range on this outing. The parents contribute greatly and often make the most of this educational trip.

"See how small the baby's hands are, this is how you were when you were babies." This often triggers a je ne sais quoi, you could call it an instinctive need to learn, and the kids lurch onto the baby to extend its fingers to see exactly how big the tiny hand is. Which of course jolts the baby awake once again. And you wonder why people of old went to a secluded area in the woods to give birth.

When the nurse comes in to announce that visiting time is up, she finds everyone sitting on the bed with the patient.



"There just weren't enough seats for all of us 26 people in here!" They exclaim. At which time a trained nurse should ask if there is enough oxygen in the room for the visitors to breath?

All in all, a sick person would eventually develop a strong hatred for people, which in turn would be unhealthy for the patient. It is very possible that if the patient is pushed far enough he or she could develop some kind of nervous habit and will soon be moved to a different kind of hospital where there will be straightjackets and peace of mind because there, they will never ever get any visitors.

Ancient Chinese instrument enjoyed by foreigners

By Denise Young
Reuter

HONG KONG — Zhang Yan, a top performer on the Guzheng, says foreigners often appreciate the music of the 3,000 year-old stringed instrument better than the Chinese, who invented it.

The guzheng (pronounced Goo-Jung) is a large, horizontal zither-like instrument with 25 strings and a range of more than three octaves. It makes "sweepingly romantic music, full of acting phrases," said a reviewer in the New York Times.

So romantic can the strains of the guzheng be that the Chinese fail to appreciate it, said Zhang, who left China for the United States in a search of freedom of expression.

"I prefer playing to foreign audiences because they feel the music with their hearts. Chinese audiences listen more for technique," she said during a concert trip to Hong Kong.

This is a very expressive instrument. When I play the guzheng I feel like I am talking to my audience."

Zhang discovered the guzheng when she was a 14-year-old piano student in Shanghai in the 1950s, partly thanks to then Premier Zhou Enlai's efforts to revive traditional instruments.

"I was walking past a recital hall one day when I heard this sound, the most beautiful sound I had ever heard. When I found out it was the guzheng, I immediately vowed to learn how to play it," she said.

While this is a quintessentially Chinese instrument that has changed little in the past 3,000 years, Zhang said her repertoire did not become truly creative until she emigrated to the United States in 1983.

"In China there are so many restrictions. It is very hard to develop new styles there," she said. "All the best guzheng composers are now in New York. In China

anything that is new or creative is banned as a threat to social stability."

She has pioneered innovations such as playing the old wooden instrument, Zhang cites her broad musical training.

"I didn't just learn the instrument, I also learnt music theory, the piano, and listened to a lot of symphony orchestras."

She owes part of her success to husband Liu Qichao, a composer who added flute, piano and percussion ensembles to her performances.

Liu was a factory worker from northern Shandong province sent to Shanghai in the 1960s to learn music under a government policy to bring culture to the masses.

Zhang said she would rather forget the chaotic years of radicalism when she was exiled to the countryside to work on a farm.

"I don't need to worry like in China before, that they would say this is bad for society, that anything modern is no good."

Coffee — in a taster's genes and in his veins

Mr. Colten spends most of his time working for a coffee importer as a salesman and quality control manager, and coffee runs in his genes as well as his veins. He learned the art of tasting from his father, a retired coffee importer who is chairman of the board of coffee graders at the exchange.

"I still drink three cups of coffee a day for pleasure — and an indeterminable amount for business," Mr. Colten said.

"Almost anyone can learn to taste coffee with the right tutelage. It just takes time," he said.

"Coffee tasting is a craft, just like being taught to be a fine shoemaker or cabinetmaker," said Donald Schoenholz, a coffee historian and writer.

The process begins when samples are submitted to the grading room and a panel of three is called in to test between one and a dozen.

The graders spread out the beans on white paper and pick out imperfections such as broken or black ones.

bave not changed much in over 90 years. In the room are three round tables, stools and hourglass-shaped cuspidors (spittoons). White cups are placed around the edges of the tables.

Beside the wall are two four-cylinder roasters, four big water kettles and an electric grinder. The smell of coffee permeates the room. Hundreds of coffee samples are stacked in boxes on shelves.

"The testers are blind tasting, they have no clue as to the identity of the coffee, they only know the coffee's growth — its country of origin," Mr. Colten said.

The beans are poured out and mixed into three pans. "The colour of the beans is compared to an exchange sample which represents the minimum acceptable colour," Mr. Colten said.

The graders spread out the beans on white paper and pick out imperfections such as broken or black ones.

What makes the perfect cup of coffee? Says Mr. Colten: "There is no perfect cup. It is the one you like."

Then they grade the sample, count the imperfections and average the grades awarded by each of the three tasters.

In the cup testing, the coffee beans are roasted and ground. The graders put seven grams (one quarter-ounce) into a cup and the coffee is steep-brewed by pouring boiling water on the grounds, which float to the surface and form a shell.

"Then the grader takes a spoon, breaks the shell and sniffs the bouquet and aroma of the coffee," Mr. Colten said.

As the coffee cools, the grounds dissolve in the water.

The grader sips a spoonful and spits it out into the cuspidor. "There is no reason to swallow the coffee. The palate tells you everything about the coffee," Mr. Colten said.

The grader usually tastes the coffee two or three times as it cools down.

"He is looking for a clean cup of coffee which is not tainted by imperfections such as an earthy, fermented, sour or generally any kind of unpleasant taste," Mr. Colten said.

The graders spread out the beans on white paper and pick out imperfections such as broken or black ones.

What makes the perfect cup of coffee? Says Mr. Colten: "There is no perfect cup. It is the one you like."

A festival of fools

By E. Yaghi

Hanada fried falafel in the hot morning sun. Her dark amber eyes scanned the park that lay in a depression in the centre of a small town in the eastern part of the U.S. Some football players kicked a ball and whistles trilled. At the opposite end of the park, on a raised platform, a band of singers and musicians competed for the attention of a very informal audience dressed mostly in shorts and dark glasses which warded off the glare of the summer sun. Yet summertime and the living is easy. Easy for some; that is. Easy if one is an American dog for example who belongs to rich owners. Easy for the rich owner too, but not easy for the homeless man who staggered around the crowds arguing with everyone he pleased and begging from those who showed signs of sympathy. Not many paid attention to him though as he had to outpeak the blast of modern music and he physically was incapable of such efforts for long because of his chronic alcoholism.

Hanada stood under the protective tent, wiping sweat off her thick brow which knitted in perplexion. "How?" she asked a co-worker busy beside her. "How can this man afford to drink if he's homeless and has no money?"

"Oh," she was assured, "he just begs for food and drink and that's how he lives. He comes to the festival every year and he fights just like he's doing now as he wobbles all over the place. Sometimes he demands booze, sometimes food."

She scratched her head in confusion. She would never understand these Americans. She felt sorry for some, but she hated most of them. She had been in America four months now. From the minute she set foot in this weird country as a new bride of an X-ray technologist, a wave of homesickness swept over her. Now, more than ever, she missed her family she left behind in the West Bank.

Scenes of the intifada were forever carved in her mind. Like the days of the Gulf war when the Israelis imposed a twenty-four hour curfew on the Palestinians and no one could go outside for whatever reason. Once she saw her neighbour, an old man, venture out of his house to purchase milk for his young son. The Israeli soldiers asked no questions but immediately shot him twice, one bullet caught him in the head, the other in his stomach. He died that day because he wanted to buy some milk for his starving baby.

She also remembered her young cousin who was shot in the chest while he was on his way to a friend's house. The bullet that the doctors dug out of him had one inscription, made in the U.S.

As she watched the drunk homeless man weave a path from one end of the park to the other, Hanada thought, "Why are the Americans doing this to us? Why do they send weapons and ammunition and explosives to the Jews to kill Palestinians when their own people are without jobs and homes? What right have Russian Jews to Palestine? No, it's not millions of American dollars that pay for these hideous crimes the Americans back, but billions! Money is taken from poor Americans to pay for Jewish crimes and murder halfway around the world."

A customer approached the booth where Hanada fried the falafel. The crisp smell was inviting. Business had been good so far. "I'd like some lemonade and a sandwich," ordered the young man.

"Certainly," she said with a weird accent. "That will be one dollar please."

"Say, just who do you represent anyway?" the youth asked.

"We are selling falafel for the Palestinians so that we can raise some money to help pay for medical emergencies."

"Who did you say, Palestinians?"

"No, she replied firmly, "I said Palestinians."

"Oh, and just who are they?"

"They come from a country called Palestine."

"Where's that? In Russia?"

"Fool!" she almost screamed out loud and then said with control, "No Palestine is a country that is under Jewish occupation in the country now known as Israel!"

"Oh," he answered, seeming to understand it all now.

"Are you a Jew then or something?"

"No I'm not," she answered hopelessly. "I'm a Muslim Palestinian."

"OK," and he walked off, not really seeming to know just who was who and which country was where on the map but at least she had informed him that such a country as Palestine did exist.

A few people did contribute money for the Palestinians. They stuffed dollar bills into an old tin can and then went on with their lives.

Some owners, pulled by their dogs, approached the stand and bought falafel sandwiches. The dogs looked big and healthy to Hanada. She remembered seeing sacks of different brands of dog food piled up in customers' shopping carts in supermarkets. It looked like they spent as much money feeding their dogs as they did their kids if not more. She would always remember when her little brothers and sisters never had enough to eat or even had a safe day to attend school.

One gray-haired lady briskly walked up to the falafel stand, shaking her finger at Hanada in reproach as she scolded, "The Palestinians and the Jews must learn to live together in peace. Be friends now. Don't keep fighting!"

Hanada smiled a little. She wished this were possible. If only Americans didn't keep helping Israel. If only the U.S. would insist that the Jews withdraw from occupied territory as they had insisted with the Iraqis when they bombed them out of existence. "Ah, but if wishes were horses, then beggars would ride," she said recalling the saying she had learned in school when she was lucky enough to go to school.

She stared at the musicians wearing funny shorts and at some of the audience who by now had consumed several cans of beer. Some kids started dancing to the music on the hot grass in their bare feet. They were crazy, wild and carefree. They were Americans after all and this was their country, the land of the free and the brave. The land of democracy where there was no hunger or poverty and everybody was happy, especially if one happened to be a well fed dog or cat.

Beyond the storm of music, Hanada could hear Palestinian children crying, waiting to break free from the shackles of their oppression. She could hear the wail of mothers whose sons had died in prison and she could hear the moans of Palestinian youth who were held without trial in underground dungeons. A lump caught in her throat and she said to herself, "I will never like Americans. I refuse to be like them. I hate them for their ignorance and for what they are doing to my people. One day this empire too shall crumble. God doesn't sleep or forget!"

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 12

Eileen Foley, John Larroquette and Charles Robinson 9:10 *Forever Green*

8:30 *The Family Man*

Starring: Pauline Collins and John Alderton

9:10 *Outlaws*

10:00 *News in English*

Grand Illusion

Monday, Sept. 16

Birthday

8:30 *Surgical Spirits*

9:10 *Murder She Wrote*

Trevor Hudson's legacy

Starring: Rod Taylor

A literary editor is hired to edit the late Trevor Hudson's last book when he discovers that there is literary fraud and threatens to expose it. He is murdered and Jessica investigates.

10:00 *News in English*

10:20 *Over My Dead Body*

Married Alive

Max and his beautiful partner are on the track of a professional killer.

Friday, Sept. 13

8:30 *The Simpsons*

9:10 *Documentary — National Geographic Explorer*

A series on what happens behind the scenes. The cam-

S.C.

8:30 *Perfect Strangers*

9:10 *French Miniseries*

Great Balls Of Fire

Starring: Harry Anderson,

Balky and Larry volunteer to work for the fire depart-

ment.

9:10 *Our House*

Like Father, Like Son

Starring: Wilfred Brimley, Deidre Hall, Shannen Doherty and Chad Allen

10:00 *News in English*

10:20 *Columbo*

Mind Over Mayhem

Starring: Peter Falk and Jose Ferrer

Wednesday, Sept. 18

8:30 *Golden Girls*

9:10 *Documentary — Bolly-wood Story*

Japanese Hamlet to boost culture links with Britain

By Tsukasa Mackawa
Reuter

LONDON — London playgoers won't know what hit them. The Japanese are bringing Shakespeare's Hamlet to England — Kabuki-style.

Kabuki evolved around 1600, just when Shakespeare was writing his blank verse tragedy about a prince of Denmark who killed the stage with corpses.

The Japanese art form tells the story with dance, acrobatics and mime. Hamlet and his doomed bride-to-be, Ophelia, will be played by the same male actor.

The Kabuki Hamlet will be part of the Japan Festival, being opened in London on Sept. 16 by British heir to the throne Prince Charles and by Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan.

By the time it ends early next year, it will have been the biggest celebration of another nation's culture ever held in Britain.

"It's almost like putting a human face on Japan" said festival director David Barrie.

"People do not really know that Japan is a very much of a living culture with a great deal of artistic, creative activities going on."

Mr. Barrie said foreigners saw a stereotype Japan — either a nation of Geisha girls, Mount Fuji and cherry blossom or "hardworking salary men who are driving to make Japan a greater economic power."

The festival will offer more than 350 events including sumo wrestling and traditional Kabuki and Noh Drama, horseback archers, music and painting.

Some 67 top Rikishi (wrestlers) will compete in a five-day grand sumo tournament in London — the first official sumo contest to be held outside Japan in 1,500 years.

There will also be a Kabuki version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical Jesus Christ Superstar, and a puppet version of Shakespeare's The Tempest.

A contemporary Japanese play adapted for British actors, *Tango At The End Of Winter*, will be directed by Yukio Ninagawa who staged Macbeth and Medea at the National Theatre in 1987.

The mounted Samurai archers will perform in London's Hyde Park. Other festival features will be a jazz concert by Japanese alto saxophonist Sadao Watanabe, Western classical music conducted by Boston Philharmonic Music director Seiji Ozawa and more than 50 films including Akira Kurosawa's latest *Rhapsody In August*.

The festival was planned to coincide with the centenary of the Japan Society which was founded to promote the study and understanding of Japan in Britain.

In part, it also reflects Britain's position as the favourite choice of Japanese firms for investment in Europe.

Japanese direct investment in Britain accounts for about 30 per cent of all its investment in Europe. About 200 Japanese firms manufacture in Britain.

Some \$24 million has been raised to finance the festival through more than 300 Japanese and 100 British companies, business groups and government organisations.

Fuerstenberg collection — a mixture of grace, beauty and romanticism

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The colours were spectacular, the fabrics were rich, the styles were royal and the fashion show was a hit. The exquisite designs of Prince Egon Von Fuerstenberg reflected a sense of romanticism, grace and elegant beauty seen in his haute couture autumn-winter 91/92 collection.

The fashion show, held at the Amman Marriott Hotel,

was the first of its kind in Jordan. It featured a range of day dresses, tailleur, evening and cocktail dresses. It also included a romantic bridal gown.

"I like a feminine woman; even if she works. I like her to be sexy," Prince Fuerstenberg said in an interview with the Jordan Times. "I like to show off the body, that is why most of my designs are waisted and near to the body."

The collection, displayed

at the fashion show, had a wonderful and imaginative combination of colours, fabrics and sequences. For day wear, the designs were mostly deux piece tailleur or simple short dresses covered entirely with a tight fitting jacket. The fabrics used mostly were wool, organdy and chiffon.

"I was very enthusiastic about coming to Jordan, and I hope people like my designs," Prince Fuerstenberg said before the start of the show.

Eva Hunter, a former model who organises fashion shows around the world, expressed delight at being in Jordan. "It's fantastic to go to far away places. I think it's fabulous," Hunter said.

"I was very disappointed about not being able to go down to Petra for a fashion shoot. I always wanted to visit it," the Prince said, referring to a trip he was promised would take place earlier in the day of the fashion show.

According to informed sources, the Amman Marriott Hotel had requested from the Ministry of Tourism an army helicopter to transport the models and photographers to and from Petra. The hotel explained that some of the pictures would appear in major fashion magazines including *Vogue*, *Bazaar* and *Harpers*. Unfortunately the request was later denied.

"I think people liked the fashion show and I hope in the future we will be able to do something like that again," Carole Hanna, the main organiser of the show at the Marriott Hotel told the Jordan Times. "It was hard work, but I believe it was worth it."

Prince Fuerstenberg said he is influenced by his 21-year-old daughter when he designs for the younger people. "I use a lot more colours like shocking pink, red, salmon and so on, and I also use different fabrics especially stretch fabrics," he said.

Prior to designing any collection, Prince Fuerstenberg said he thinks of the colours and fabrics that would go into

FURSTENBERG



A long evening dress



A long evening dress with a short sequined jacket



For the second time in her career, Vanessa Redgrave is playing the part of the pioneer of modern dance, Isadora Duncan, here with co-star Oleg Menshikov of Soviet Union, appears in a London play entitled When She Danced.

monous daughters, Joely and Natasha Richardson from her marriage to director Tony Richardson.

Those looking for gossip will read little about her past affairs with such actors as Timothy Dalton, the star of the latest James Bond series. But when it comes to her politics — her espousal of unpopular causes, the leftist parties and her passionate concern over Palestinians — Redgrave spares no detail. The book will stir up the pot again, and bring us back to where *Time Magazine* recently found her after a failed American tour: "Without doubt a great actress, whose manner and personal prefer-

ences many in her audiences find abrasive and annoying."

Redgrave's admiration for Isadora Duncan is not without restrictions, and she can see where the dancer and rebel often went wrong. But "what a sense of adventure she had!" Redgrave exclaimed. "She revolutionised the whole of dance. She pioneered in dance what Stanislavski was doing in theatre. When you read about Isadora's unique life, you can't help but feel close to her." Thanks to Redgrave and playwright Sherman, the magic and excitement surrounding Isadora and Sergei can be enjoyed again by the public — *World News Link*.

A meeting of century's greatest stars

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — A new play in London's West End is uniting two of the century's greatest and most controversial female performers — the American dancer Isadora Duncan and the English actress Vanessa Redgrave.

For the second time, the powerful, controversial Redgrave is portraying the rebellious, icon-smashing dancer, whom she sees as the mother of modern dance, an originator of glassnost 50 years ahead of her time, and a feminist from an era when such attitudes were far from popular.

While classical ballet imposed rigid sets of movements, she opted for more natural rhythms and based her dancing on ancient Greece's traditions giving complete freedom of movement to the interpreter. At the age of 21 she left the United States to seek recognition abroad, sailing with little money on a cattle boat bound for England. There she was invited to dance at private receptions by the most famous hostesses and rapidly gained fame throughout the European continent.

Redgrave hopes that the new stage play by Martin Sherman, called *When She Danced*, will also be filmed. Instead of the broad-brush treatment, though, this account of Duncan's life will concentrate on 1923, when Isadora was married to the Russian dissident poet Sergei Esemin. Although Duncan didn't believe in marriage, she finally put her scruples behind her and married Esemin, 17 years her junior, in 1922 so that she could take him on a tour of the United States. She had met the poet and songwriter in 1921 during a trip to the Soviet Union to establish a dance school. At the time Esemin enjoyed an enormous reputation, being hailed as "the voice of the people" by the revolutionary intelligentsia of Lenin's time.

Along with other American stars like Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks Sr. Duncan was attracted to the Russian Revolution in its most idealistic aspects, Redgrave explained: "There is no doubt that Isadora was extremely naive in her idealism. She spoke of wanting to remake the world through dance. Having failed to establish the school of dance

she wanted in the West, it was only natural that she responded to the help that the fledgling Soviet Union offered her."

"The burst of warmth between the Soviet and the American peoples did not last long," Redgrave continued. "Within a year or two old antagonisms surfaced, on both sides. There was absolutely no cynicism in Isadora, however. She was one of those pioneering Americans ... who turned their backs on Philistine America to discover Europe." Isadora did return to the United States with Esemin, but at a time when anti-Bolshevism was at its height. When she introduced him during a concert at Symphony Hall, in Boston, the audience shouted insults at her. She returned the abuse, left the stage and vowed never to return to her native country.

The next few years were spent in Europe. Esemin returned to the Soviet Union and was reported to have committed suicide in 1925. But during a recent visit to Moscow Redgrave found growing evidence that Sergei may have been killed by the GPU, the forerunner of the KGB. During the Stalin regime the poet's works were banned as decadent. In recent years his popularity has grown again, to the extent that a half-million copies of his poetry have been published. Says Redgrave: "Esemin is one of the century's great poets, and he is being regarded in the Soviet Union today as right up there, rated even with Pushkin."

"Many in Moscow accepted the story that he died of suicide," the actress explained. "But when we were there looking for our Sergei, we could see what a huge cult had built up to

honour him and his works." Redgrave has formed a particularly close link to playwright Martin Sherman. A 52-year-old American who took 20 years to get established, he is today the darling of many stars. Maureen Lipman played in his *Messiah*. Meryl Streep read from his *Cracks* at a theatre conference. Richard Gere and Ian McKellen have both starred in his best-known play, *Bent*, which concerns homosexual prisoners in a Nazi concentration camp.

Most unusual about the often comical, frequently touching drama *When She Danced* is that Sherman uses many languages to portray the turbulent, cosmopolitan Paris. Sergei, played by Moscow star Oleg Menshikov, speaks only Russian. Other characters speak in French, Italian, Greek and Swedish. Sherman made the languages alien "so that we hear the world as Isadora did, with all its confusions." His play, then, is a study in the frustrations of communication, the clashing of artistic egos and the hunger of these rootless, questing wanderers for a native country.

Finding "their Sergei" was an adventure for Redgrave, Sherman, producer Robert Fox and director Robert Allan Ackerman. Redgrave, a strong anti-Stalinist, but equally strong leftist, has made herself much at home in Mr. Gorbachev's new Soviet Union in recent years. She and her sister Lynn starred in Chekhov's *Three Sisters* in London, and she helped bring the prominent Georgian director Robert Struz to the West.

Despite all their contacts, the four talent scouts couldn't find the right Sergei, even after countless auditions. Finally, on a tip, they went to



Illustration © W.H. 1991

Men who stop heart disease programme run higher risk of dying

By Stanley D. Miller
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Men who started and then stopped a heart-disease prevention programme ran a higher risk of death than those who never underwent the regimen, scientists said Wednesday. But doctors cautioned against avoiding such programmes.

"If there's a message here, it's 'don't stop, don't start,'" said Dr. Stuart Rich, chief of cardiology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

A report on the study appeared in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The study by researchers in Finland found that prevention programmes worked while they continued. But after treatment stopped, the participants were more at risk than before, and more at risk than the men who never were treated.

Researchers studied 1,222 healthy volunteers from among 3,490 male business executives. The volunteers had at least one of the risk factors for heart disease. Those factors include heredity, smoking, drinking, eating high-fat and high-cholesterol foods, being overweight and not exercising enough.

The men were split into two groups. One was treated for five years with a programme that included diet, exercise, drugs and counseling against smoking and drinking. The other group received no treatment.

Risk factors declined for the treated group during the

five-year trial, wrote Dr. Timo E. Strandberg of the University of Helsinki. But the differences between the groups had levelled off by 1985, five years after the trial ended.

By the end of 1989, 5.6 per cent of the treated group had died from heart disease compared with 2.3 per cent of the untreated group.

And 10.9 per cent of the treated group had died from all causes compared with 7.5 per cent of the untreated group.

"No one should believe that this study tells people that you shouldn't watch what you eat, how much you exercise, common sense things like that," said Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of the Public Citizen Health Research Group in Washington.

"Don't smoke. Exercise. Lose weight if you're overweight. Eat a diet that's lower in cholesterol and animal fat. All that isn't altered one way by this study."

Dr. Strandberg and his team of researchers could not explain the findings.

The results may be peculiar to this highly selective population of middle-aged men," he wrote.

Dr. Oglesby Paul, emeritus professor of medicine at Harvard University Medical School, agreed there is no scientifically convincing explanation.

"But publication of such unusual results... often provokes enlightening discussion and keeps a scientific field from becoming complacent," he wrote in an editorial accompanying the article.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ANCHORS AWEIGH

By Craig Schulz

ACROSS

1 Rail 41 Small dog's bark
5 Poisons 42 Dulce
8 Large rolls of bits 43 Iron
12 Overlooking 44 Grow together
13 Gorge 45 Gorge
18 L... 17 TV show! 46 Grow together
19 Twist around 47 Gorge
20 Wings 48 Gorge
21 Es... 49 Gorge
22 Come Jay 50 Gorge
23 - meter 51 Actor Vodov
24 - ouchy 52 Nothing
25 Annoy 53 Angels
26 Warime 54 Devil's work
27 Come 55 Cut off leaves
28 Come 56 Cut off leaves
29 Summary for 57 Seek information
30 Short 58 Come
31 Ignited 59 Come
32 Deaf soundly 60 Come
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35 Fall clumsy 63 Come
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King: Jordan on democratic path

(Continued from page 4)

tion of other Arab states in the region in the peace process with enthusiasm and appreciation, since the problem has always had an obvious regional dimension. What we must achieve is a comprehensive, honourable, just and lasting peace and regional reconciliation. Peace that would bring together the children of Abraham to live as they did through the greater part of their common history. That Jerusalem may finally come to represent the essence of peace between the followers of the three great monotheistic religions — to whom Jerusalem equally belongs and in whose hearts and souls it occupies an unequalled position.

Finally, what an opportunity peace would present for all concerned, to divert their energies and resources away from the abyss of war and devastation, towards our urgent need to work together to meet the requirements of life itself for present and future generations. I hope that the coming period will witness the rapid elimination of the barriers of suspicion, fear, despair and hate — the ingredients on which extremism feeds and thrives. We are committed to exerting our maximal efforts; that a new dawn may soon break over the Palestinians living on their beloved soil, their grievances addressed, their human rights restored everywhere, and their long suffering ended. Israelis and Arabs living in peace, in the region where the Almighty God sent his divine messages to Jews, Christians and Muslims, all enjoying the real security finally founded on peace,

Arafat reaffirms PLO's right

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Arafat said that the PLO adheres to a five-point agreement that was concluded with the U.S. before the Gulf war.

"We have agreed on the composition of the Palestinian delegation and we are pursuing the contacts with the Americans through Jordan, Egypt, and Syria because these are essential partners in the peace process," he said.

"The Americans had imagined that the Gulf war would eliminate the Palestinian equation," he said. "They can reach a settlement without the Palestinians but they can never achieve a genuine peace in the region," Mr. Arafat noted.

Mr. Arafat said disarming Palestinian fighters in Lebanon had made Palestinian camps in Lebanon threatened by the prospect of massacres as had happened in Sabra and Shatila camps in 1982 when Israel invaded Lebanon. "We had agreed to the Lebanese government's demands because we had only two options: Either to make our people suffer more than they can or create a new Arab-Arab massacre," he said.

"We were anxious to ensure an active Lebanese government and this we decided to present our weapons as a gift to the army to facilitate the mission of the gov-

Government rejects allegations

(Continued from page 1)

preserve state security. Several human rights activists say prisoners have been slapped and beaten during interrogation but the level of torture does not come close to that of the 1960s and 1970s when underground leftist and Palestinian groups were active in Jordan.

Government rejects allegations

(Continued from page 1)

allowed to visit the detainees and the sentenced (prisoners)," Mr. Shouf said.

The GID says its detention and interrogation practices are within the law and are necessary to

Germany ready to use its clout

(Continued from page 1)

the returnees and the international aid for Israel as well as the Jewish state's demand for international assistance to settle Soviet Jewish emigres and underlined the disparity between the level of assistance.

Mr. Spranger said the water problems of Jordan were another issue he covered during his discussions with the Crown Prince. He said Germany understood the issues at stake and attached great importance to efforts to solve the problem.

"I share the opinion of the Crown Prince that water is an existential question now and in the future," Mr. Spranger said. "We will grant our assistance to overcome the water problem, and this will always be Germany's priority."

Mr. Spranger met on Wednesday with Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz, who expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Germany for its continued financial support.

Throughout these years I have feared none but God to whom I humbly pray that if I do not live to see the day when I could experience the real pride and joy of addressing a Pan-Arab Parliament — modelled on this European Parliament — representing the peoples and governments of a similarly constructed Arab community, that before long it will be the privilege of another to experience such a proud moment. I shall continue my relentless endeavours to realise such a long cherished dream for as long as I live.

I thank you for your many kindnesses. I thank you for the privilege and pleasure of being with you today.

Jordan, PLO end 2 days of talks

(Continued from page 1)

"We shall resist any attempts to keep the Palestine Liberation Organization from the political battle," Salim Za'atoun, deputy speaker of the PLO's National Council (PNC), told Reuters.

The PNC is due to meet in Algiers on Sept. 23 to decide whether Palestinians should attend the peace conference.

"I am against anyone who says the PLO should not go to the conference to represent the Palestinian cause in all its aspects," added Mr. Za'atoun, a member of the Central Committee of the PNC.

Mr. Za'atoun said reconciliation talks between Mr. Arafat and four dissident PLO factions based in Syria would take place in Libya next week. He will try to woo them into attending the PNC talks as part of unity efforts.

The PLO asked the United Nations Tuesday to help enable members of the PNC who live in the Israeli-occupied territories to take part in the council meeting in Algiers.

The charge d'affaires of the PLO U.N. observer mission, Riyad Mansour, in a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, asked the U.N. chief "to facilitate the departure from and immediate return to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, of all members of the PNC in those territories so that they will be able to attend the meeting of the council."

He did not say how many of the PNC's members live in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

In Tunis, a PLO source said the PNC may consider expelling the guerrilla.

"We can say that coordination has been achieved," he said.

Egypt freezes visa curbs on Jordanians

(Continued from page 1)

President Mubarak reaffirmed the importance of conducting speedy consultations among Arab experts and ministers so that a collective Arab stand can be adopted before the conference, Dr. Ensour said.

Mr. Musa said that President Mubarak "stressed the importance of coordinating the stands of Egypt and Jordan" in preparation for the peace conference scheduled for the coming month.

The Egyptian minister who described Dr. Ensour meeting with the president as important, said

the returnees and the international aid for Israel as well as the Jewish state's demand for international assistance to the Kingdom, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

In remarks carried by Petra, Dr. Fariz said that Germany's assistance to Jordan over the past three decades was instrumental in achieving many developmental projects in the Kingdom.

Dr. Fariz also said that the two sides signed minutes providing for technical and financial cooperation, which included the allocation of 64 million Deutsche marks (D.M. 65 million) to expand and improve the Kibrit Al Samra waste-water treatment plant and finance other irrigation projects in the northern Jordan Valley region.

Mr. Spranger, who is scheduled to meet some of the returnees from the Gulf, may also have an opportunity to meet with King Hussein who is expected to return from his trip in Europe Thursday.

Jordan, PLO end 2 days of talks

(Continued from page 1)

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Ottee, Krabbe start pre-Olympic psychological battle

BERLIN (R) — Double world champion Katrin Krabbe and Jamaican rival Merlene Ottee began their pre-Olympic psychological battle in earnest with matching victories at the Berlin Grand Prix athletics meeting.

German Krabbe, who has chosen to avoid Ottee since her own triumph in the recent World Championships to gain a mental edge in the build-up to the Barcelona games, finished her season with the second-fastest 200 metres of the year, 21.96 seconds.

Ottee had earlier clocked the second-fastest 100 metres of the year, 10.84, to cast aside the disappointment to two bronze medals in the Tokyo World Championships after dominating women's sprinting in the early part of the season.

Ottee was desperate from a shot at Krabbe on the German's home soil at Sunday's Cologne Grand Prix and in Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

But under orders from her coach Thomas Springstein, Krabbe refused to take up the challenge, wanting the Jamaican to go into her pre-Olympic winter training feeling rattled.

The tactic certainly seemed to frustrate Ottee.

"I was prepared to run against Katrin Krabbe but she chose the 200. If I had run both 100 and 200 she would have probably gone over 400," Ottee said.

The 31-year-old Jamaican, who

ran the fastest 200 metres of the year in Cologne in 21.83, never looked in danger after 50 metres of the 100 and finished ahead of American World silver medallist Gwen Torrence, who clocked 10.96.

Later Krabbe dominated the first part of the 200 in similarly emphatic fashion and had already built a lead off the bend before cruising to victory ahead of Soviet Irina Privalova, who finished in 22.31.

"I wanted to run 22.0 seconds and I'm very happy to run a time like that in my last race of the season," Krabbe said. "Now I am off on Krabbe."

After her break Krabbe knows she can begin her Barcelona build-up in confidence, having proved herself at the biggest occasion of the year despite poor form earlier in the season.

Despite some superb times Ottee will have a nagging doubt in her mind that she could freeze again when the big moment comes in Barcelona next August.

Ottee said her below-par form in Japan was due to too much interference from people around her who had tried to tell her how to run. But the Berlin race had done her some good.

"I have never run my form and I could run my own race today. So Tokyo has only been a bad experience," Ottee said.

With the World Championships over, many athletes

have lost much of their competitive bite.

Britain's world silver medallist Roger Black seemed to lack sharpness as he was beaten into second place in the 400 metres by American Olympic champion Steve Lewis.

Lewis finished in 44.56 seconds, ahead of the European champion who clocked 44.85. American world bronze medallist Danny Everett was third in 45.23.

Leroy Burrell, world silver medallist behind Carl Lewis, won his second 100 metres in three days to finish his season on a positive note, clocking 10.04 to win from Canadian Bruny Surin.

"I wanted to run below 10 seconds but, while I couldn't, I'm happy because I have finished the season with a good time," Burrell said.

Kenyan world champion Billy Konochellah, third in Cologne, rediscovered his winning ways in the 800 metres, producing a devastating sprint to overhaul Britain's Tom McLean in the last 50 metres.

American Mike Powell who bowed Bob Beaman's 23-year-old world long jump record in Tokyo, complained of a leg muscle strain as he won the event with 8.10 metres, well below his record of 8.95.

World Champion Lyudmila Narozhilenko of the Soviet Union looked totally out of touch in the women's 100 metres hurdles at



Germany's Katrin Krabbe, with Jamaica's Merlene Ottee at left, heads to 100m victory at the World Championships in Tokyo.

Roberts in 12.48 seconds, a U.S. record.

Dees won in 13.47 ahead of German Florian Schwarhoff (13.49). Pierce clocked 13.60.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Cherkasov loses at Geneva Open

GENEVA (AP) — Unseeded Jordi Arrese of Spain upset No. 2 seed Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 in the first round of the 250,000 Geneva Open Tennis Tournament. Cherkasov, the world's 16th-ranked player, said he was hampered by stomach problems. Arrese, ranked 49th worldwide, went to a hospital immediately after the match for treatment of a recurrent neck problem, but his coach said his second-round start was not in danger. Arrese next faces Veli Paloheme of Finland who overcame Haifa's Ronald Agenor 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 6-4 in the first round.

Germans gain in 1st round at Bordeaux

BORDEAUX (AP) — Three Germans advanced in first-round, play Tuesday at the \$300,000 Bordeaux Open Tennis Tournament. Alexander Mironz, the No. 8 seed, downed Francisco Roig of Spain, 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3); Patrick Kuhnen defeated Tomas Zdravik of Czechoslovakia, 6-4, 6-4 and Udo Riglewski beat Philippe Simian of France, 6-4, 6-4. Another German, seventh-seeded Christian Saceanu, was ousted by Lars Jonsson of Sweden, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. Second-seeded Swede Jonas Svensson advanced with a 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 win over Czechoslovakia.

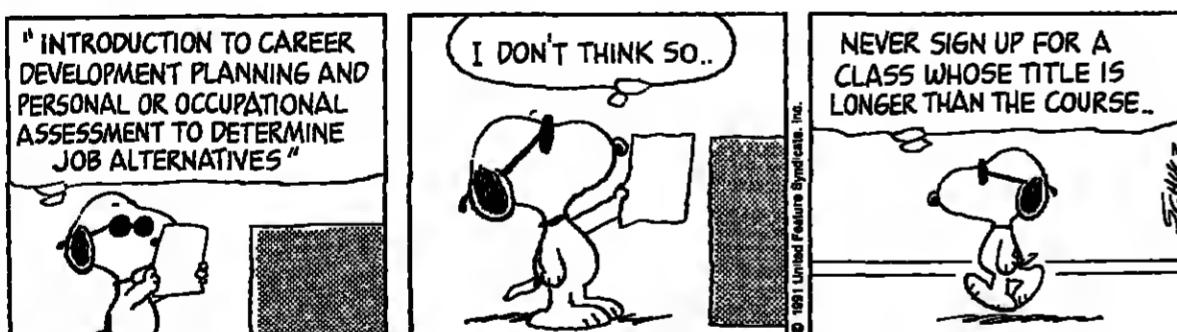
Italy suspends weightlifting programme

ROME (R) — Italy's entire competitive weightlifting programme was suspended after six contestants tested positive for bulk-increasing drugs at a national meeting last month, a senior official said. "This is the first time that we have suspended our weightlifting sector and all international activity. This demonstrates our desire to take the high road," Matteo Pellicone, president of the Italian Wrestling, Weights and Judo Federation, said in a statement.

Indurain's sprint puts him on top

TARRAGONA, Spain (AP) — Spain's Miguel Indurain valuated into the overall lead of the 71st Tour of Catalonia by winning the fifth stage, an individual time trial. Indurain, master of the sprint, catapulted to the finish with a time of 30 minutes 46 seconds in the 25-kilometre circuit from Tarragona to Salou and back.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Soviet men win gymnastics gold medal

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — The Soviet Union men's team has won their fourth straight world gymnastic title.

Vitaly Scherbo, Grigori Misutin, Valeri Liukin and Igor Kornbchinski took the first four individual places in leading the Soviet men to the gold medal at the World Gymnastics Championships in Indianapolis.

China won the silver medal, Germany took Bronze and Japan finished fourth in the competition on the fourth day of the nine-day international event.

Korobchinski, the defending world all-around champion, failed to qualify for Thursday's all-around final, however, when he fell off the pommel horse and scored only 9.40. A maximum of three gymnasts per country may advance to the 36-man final.

"It was a silly mistake I made," said Korobchinski, who qualified for the individual apparatus finals in three events.

"Of course it is a great disappointment but it is not the end of my career. We have a great team and I was not the best among them tonight. That's life."

The Soviet men thoroughly dominated the event, recording the highest cumulative score on each of the six apparatus.

"I am very happy with the result," said head coach Leonid Arkaev. "We showed almost everything we could do tonight. I cannot understand Korobchinski, of all people, making such an error but as a whole we were very

sharp."

Scherbo was especially so. He scored between 9.675 and 9.875 in a superb display of consistency.

"Even with the disruptions in our country we were preparing very well in Moscow before this

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A smile and a word of encouragement to others is your best protection today and it will bring you additional benefits and favors from others who would otherwise not be so disposed toward you.

LIBRA: (September 21 to October 22) Whatever new ideas you have should be very carefully scrutinized for errors since you're all too apt to go off on a tangent which puts you behind the eight ball.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think over what others expect of you very carefully and then make a point to double-check in any and all available sources of right information.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look for that message that shows just where you stand and if it isn't forthcoming analyze your income and outlays and devise a better set of circumstances for yourself.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are restless, nervous unless you make a special point to control yourself so that you carry through with what you have agreed to do.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take some time out to show you are the one who does participate in charitable or other social organizations that help those in trouble.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make sure you do nothing that could upset or anger any friend or acquaintance now or you could have some unfortunate and difficult conditions follow.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Look into the many avenues by which you can find out how to follow the rules and regulations of

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A smile and a word of encouragement to others is your best protection.

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MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take some time out to show you are the one who does participate in charitable or other social organizations that help those in trouble.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your desire for a good time should have been pretty well expressed the past few days so perfect that project you have to do and show your special skills.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You find you are the one who should make a special point to maintain harmony at your residence and to do nothing to which your family can take exception.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Look into the many avenues by which you can find out how to follow the rules and regulations of

Birth Stone for December: Turquoise.

World Resources—Daggs & Co. Inc.

Amherst Rd. DeJarnett
Jeweler—Car...

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IBARR

YOWDD

TANNIE

DRUPAW

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here:

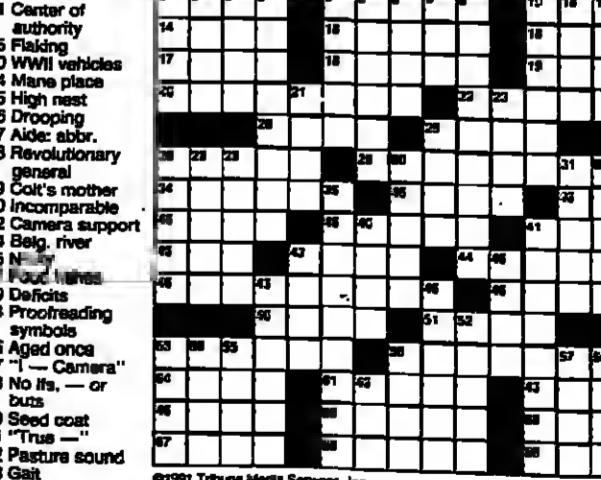
(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: RIVET CROAK PUZZLE DIVERT

Answer: What they gave that gloomy looking guy at the party—THE "DOOR" PRIZE

THE Daily Crossword

by Robert O. Wilson



Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets		NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 10/9/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 11/9/91
Currency			
Sterling Pound		1.7290	1.7260
Deutsche Mark		1.6957	1.6955
Swiss Franc		1.4804	1.4826
French Franc		5.7915	5.7715 **
Japanese Yen		134.75	134.77
European Currency Unit		1.2115	1.2089**

ISD Per STG

European Opening is 1000 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates				Date: 11/9/91
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.50	5.62	5.81
Sterling Pound	10.57	10.06	10.00	9.87
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.12	9.25	9.25
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.06	7.93	7.68
French Franc	9.12	9.25	9.25	9.37
Japanese Yen	7.12	6.78	6.50	6.37
European Currency Unit	9.56	9.62	9.68	9.68

Interest rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals			Date: 11/9/91		
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm**	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	349.35	6.70	Silver	4.02	.090

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			Date: 11/9/91
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	.687	.689	
Sterling Pound	1.1879	1.1938	
Deutsche Mark	.4056	.4076	
Swiss Franc	.4637	.4660	
French Franc	.1193	.1199	
Japanese Yen	.5096	.5121	
Dutch Guilder	.3600	.3618	
Swedish Krona	.1116	.1122	
Italian Lira	.0542	.0545	
Belgian Franc	.01960	.01970	

Per 100

Other Currencies			Date: 11/9/91
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.7700	1.7750	
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0772	
Saudi Riyal	.1829	.1837	
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-	
Qatari Riyal	.1860	.1870	
Egyptian Pound	.2050	.2150	
Omani Riyal	1.7300	1.7450	
UAE Dirham	.1860	.1870	
Greek Drachma	.3620	.3700	
Cypriot Pound	1.4600	1.5000	

Per 100

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market			Date: 11/9/91
Index	8/9/91	Close	9/9/91 Close
All-Share	107.40		106.61
Banking Sector	100.48		99.42
Insurance Sector	117.88		118.66
Industry Sector	114.39		115.98
Services Sector	129.04		127.58

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7250/60	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1382/87	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
1.6975/85	1.9120/20	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
1.4831/38	34.93/97	French francs	Italian lire
5.7700/50	1269/1270	Japanese yen	Norwegian crowns
134.90/135.00	6.1700/20	Swedish crowns	Danish crowns
6.6380/6430	6.5530/80	U.S. dollars	
One ounce of gold	346.70/347.20		

December 31, 1990 100

Tel: 677420

CONCORD

UNDER THE BOARD WALK

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Kevin Costner — In

FIELD OF DREAMS

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOM

To Be Opened Soon

Nabil Mashini

Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

ADVENTURES OF TENNESSEE BUCK

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

PLANE SCHOOL

Croatian forces, Serb guerrillas continue fighting in dozen towns

BELGRADE (R) — Croatian forces and Serbian guerrillas clashed in a dozen towns and villages across the rebel Yugoslav republic Wednesday.

A fierce guerrilla mortar barrage forced Croatian commanders to close a bridge at Maslenica, which was central Croatia's last remaining direct link with most of its Adriatic coastline.

Maslenica is in the edge of the mountainous Krajina region where Serbian guerrillas agreed Tuesday to abide by a European Community (EC) ceasefire that has so far been powerless to halt the country's ethnic strife.

Local Serbs seized control of Krajina a year ago and set up an autonomous "government" after driving out Croatian police.

Fighting has steadily intensified on Krajina's borders in the last few days in a campaign by the guerrillas for territorial gains in Croatia.

The towns of Gospic, Obrovac, Zadar and villages around them were hit by mortar fire Wednesday. Croatian forces and the guerrillas blamed each other for the clashes.

U.S. backs Taylor demands for Liberia peace force

ABUJA, Nigeria (Agencies) — The United States backs rebel leader Charles Taylor's demands that a six-nation West African army in the Liberian capital be broadened, a senior U.S. envoy to Africa has said.

Mr. Taylor, who controls most of the country outside Monrovia, has said he will disarm only if troops from Senegal, Ivory Coast and Guinea Bissau join the existing West African force. The force now is made up of soldiers from Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Gambia and Mali under the command of Nigerians, whom Mr. Taylor considers hostile.

The West Africans fought Mr. Taylor's men when they sailed into Monrovia last October, dashing his hopes for taking the city. Mr. Taylor's rebels have overrun the rest of Liberia.

Leonard Robinson, deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, said Washington supports Mr. Taylor's conditions.

However, Mr. Robinson also said Mr. Taylor's charges that the United States was behind renewed fighting on the border between Liberia and Sierra

Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said an 85-year-old woman was killed and two children were injured in Obrovac which has a mainly Croat population.

Zagreb Radio accused guerrillas backed by the army of attacking the village of Jasenice near Obrovac with tank, mortar and artillery fire.

Responsibility for the fighting was denied by Milan Martic, commander of the Krajina guerrillas, who said Croatian forces fired first.

"We replied fiercely and now the other side is asking for a truce which it always does when it finds itself in an inconvenient position," he told Tanjug.

The Krajina guerrillas' agreement with EC special envoy Henri Wijnaendts was that they would not fire first.

It was not clear whether it applied to their forays outside Krajina.

Croatia and neighbouring Slovenia say more than 460 people have been killed in fighting in their soil since they declared independence from the Balkan federation in June. The number of

guerrillas killed is not known.

The 600,000 Serb minority among Croatia's 4.5 million population are fighting rule by an independent Croatian government which they believe would victimise them.

They have captured control of up to one third of Croatia in anticipation of eventual peace talks which will focus on new borders between the fending republics.

Zagreb Radio said fighting continued in Eastern Croatia which has been cut off from the rest of the republic by guerrillas and army units blocking roads.

Tanjug said Croatian forces were badly damaged an army garrison clinic in a suburb of Osijek where EC observers have been monitoring repeated ceasefire violations.

Zagreb Radio reported that Croatian forces were still in control of Kostajnica south east of the Croatian capital despite four days of intensive attacks by guerrillas.

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Moscow announces talks to pull troops out of Cuba

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Wednesday his government would soon begin discussions with Cuba on withdrawing 11,000 Soviet troops from the island.

"We will soon begin discussions with Cuban leaders about the withdrawal of the Soviet training brigade in Cuba," Mr. Gorbachev told a news conference after talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Mr. Gorbachev said the brigade numbered about 11,000 men. He predicted the talks would begin in the immediate future, adding the problem "won't take months to address."

Mr. Baker called the announcement "a very substantial gesture (that) points up exactly what President Gorbachev and I said this morning in that there are new opportunities" created by the new political situation in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Gorbachev said Moscow would continue to have a good relationship with Havana. "We certainly will continue to have mutual beneficial commercial ex-

changes with Cuba."

The United States had long urged Moscow to cut aid to the Caribbean island whose Communist government led by Fidel Castro has been a thorn in the side of U.S. administrations for more than 30 years.

In 1962 the island was at the centre of a superpower confrontation over the stationing of Soviet medium-ranged nuclear missiles there.

Mikhail Gorbachev changes with Cuba.

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